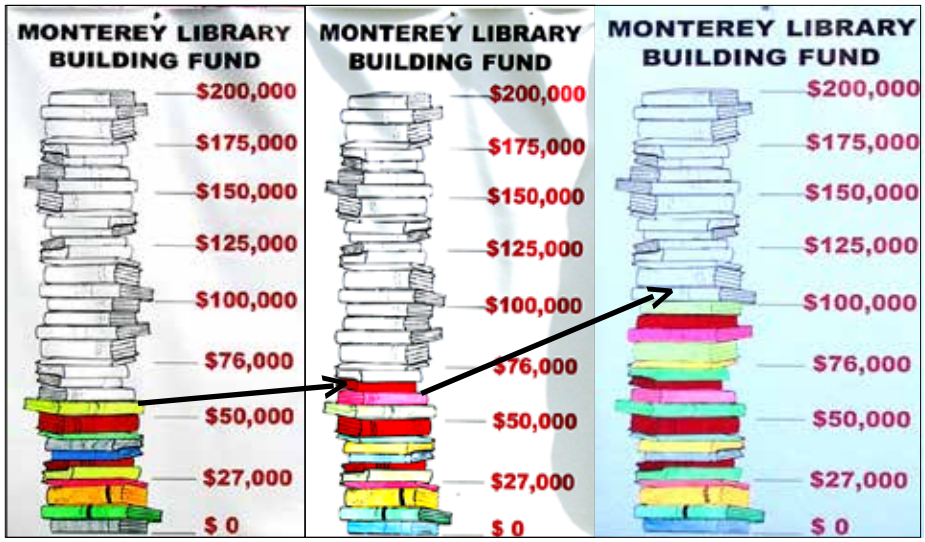
MONTEREY NEWS

January 2018
Est. 1970 Vol. XLVIII · Number 1

Pick up copies at: the library, town hall, community center, Roadside Cafe, and Bracken-Brae farm stand (in-season)



Mid-August 2017 *Mid-October 2017* *Late December 2017*

The library building fund is growing, and is halfway to its goal. If the December appeal letter is on your desk somewhere, perhaps you'll find it and consider a donation. Page 2.

Where to pick up the *News* page 13

I long for the sweet oblivion of sleep
Its warm embrace calls me
beckoning with silken hands
Untitled page 14

In October, Lanny Lanoue placed first in the Alden Open Shell division at the annual Head of the Charles regatta on the Charles River.
Glory Days page 23

Defying boundaries could spell trouble, create confusion, and spark resistance. But boundaries aren't what they used to be.
Boundary Busting page 17

The Sandisfield town garage was almost entirely destroyed by fire early Sunday morning, December 10.
Sandisfield Garage page 3

It was reported in January that the rebuilding of River Road after the devastation of the July 1995 tornado was completed.
River Road Rebuilt page 20

What makes for a healthy Lake Garfield?
Lake Garfield Working Group page 4

Eclipsed, Knox Gallery's exhibit will remain on view through Saturday, January 13.
Knox Gallery page 5

For now, this time around, all I have is my interest, my curiosity, my amazement. How lucky we are to have the snow to help us see.
Snow page 12

We ask that while compiling your new year's resolutions this year you consider adding one to become more involved in the community.
Select Board Corner page 30

I refer to our great good luck in securing the incredibly thoughtful, courteous, and way-above-the-call-of-duty services of our new sergeant, Brian Fahey.
We Are Very Fortunate page 8

Jack Ryder walked over from his house on the corner to raise the flag at the Monterey Veterans' Memorial. Along for the ride, I took away a mental snapshot of local routine I hadn't seen before.
Roadwork page 25

According to Storrs, the owl was "hanging around the house for a few days, and then was gone."
Barred Owl page 26

Library News

It is hard to believe that only a year ago we were finalizing the grant for the building project. We had to wait until the summer to get the good news, and now it is almost six months since then. It is time to update everyone on the progress of the project.

A huge thank you to the Friends of the Monterey Library who managed to raise enough money so we can work on the project over the winter. The numbers aren't in for results from the current fundraising letter yet, but we have reached halfway to our goal so we can to get into the permitting phase. We really want to thank Wendy Germain for helping us by producing a video to be used for fundraising purposes. Look for it on our website and on Facebook. You'll see people you don't know, people you know, and perhaps even yourself, telling the world why this library means so much to Monterey and why it is worthy of a generous donation.

The trustees and the building committee have been meeting with the architects, the civil engineers, the mechanical engineers, and the project managers, and are finalizing the plans. The site plan is finished enough that we have begun the application process with the town for the various permits required. The process is no different than for a private person building a residence, however, we will be following codes designed for public use buildings. The zoning issues are also different for municipal buildings, so don't be surprised to see notices and hearings about the project as we negotiate this process, led by Tim Eagles of EDM and Marc Volk of Foresight Land Services.

We know the old sawmill on the library property was torn down before the Monterey Dramatic Society sold (really gave) the land to Monterey for a library for a dollar. When the current library was built in 1931 there was no oversight from a conservation commission, a board of health, or a building commissioner, with concerns for protecting the Konkapot River, one of Monterey's treasured natural resources, but there will be even more agencies than that weighing in on this new building. We are committed to protecting the Konkapot, and our engineers have assured this can be done.

Once the design has been finalized it will go out to the estimator and we will finalize a bidding package. We anticipate it will take until spring before that phase is finished and the permits are finalized. Stop in to hear the latest on building materials and strategies to make the new building energy efficient. We are doing our best to build an aesthetically pleasing library that will serve the town for many years.

—Mark Makuc
Library Director
MontereyMassLibrary.org

The *Monterey News* is published monthly by The Monterey News Inc, PO Box 9, Monterey, MA 01245-0009.

Community Potluck Jan. 17

Charles Flint–Antiques Business

A nice crowd was on hand to appreciate Henry Bouchard's talk about the work done at three National Fish Hatcheries, including our own Berkshire NFH. There is a lot going on there, especially in the spring and summer, and they are available on short notice to give tours and even demonstrate fishing techniques. Many thanks to Henry and the Berkshire Fish Hatchery staff for a great presentation, especially coming down to Monterey from Vermont only five days before Christmas.

For January, we have Charles Flint from Lenox, who has been an art and antiques dealer for fifty-two years, and has done appraisals and authentications for multiple local museums, historical societies, and libraries. He is president of the Lenox Historical Society, vice-president of the Berkshire Historical Society, and a board member of the Bidwell House Museum. He will speak about the art and antiques business.

Please join us on Wednesday, January 17, at 6 p.m., in the Fellowship Hall of the Monterey Meetinghouse.

Please bring a dish to share with a serving utensil, place settings, and silverware for yourself. Everyone is welcome.

—Kyle Pierce

DR. JERROLD RAAB
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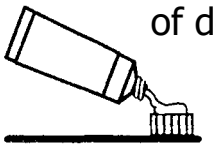

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Sandisfield Town Garage
Buildings & Equipment Totaled

The Sandisfield town garage was almost entirely destroyed by fire early Sunday morning, December 10.

Hours after the season's first significant snowfall, the town's entire fleet of highway department vehicles and plowing equipment lay in ruins, burned in a fire of unknown cause that raced through the building on Silverbrook Road at Route 57. No injuries were reported.

The town garage was nearly completely destroyed, despite valiant efforts by firefighters who arrived quickly from surrounding towns and Connecticut. Crews from Colebrook, Tolland, Otis, Riverton, New Marlborough, Monterey, and East and West Hartland were summoned shortly after flames were visible at 9:45 a.m. A highway department employee had shut the door to the building only ten minutes before flames erupted.

Fire Chief Ralph Morrison said the fire was fully involved when he arrived. Two passersby called the fire in. The building had no alarm, smoke, or sprinkler systems. "It's a hell of a loss for the town," the Chief said of the building and the four trucks it contained.

A week afterwards, the town, with outside help, was returning to something resembling normal. In the absence of town equipment, the MA Department of Transportation will plow the paved roads in town, charging only for the sand and salt used. Private companies have been contracted to plow the dirt roads.

Select Board Chairman John Skrip reports, "We are doing everything we can. We're insured, the state picked up the snow plowing, and [surrounding] towns have been very helpful. Residents have called, offering their trucks to help. We're going to get through this okay."

According to Skrip, the town was fully insured at the time of the fire. Better yet, Sandisfield was insured for the replacement cost of most of the equipment and facilities lost. "All in all," says Skrip, "it was a catastrophe. Thank God nobody got hurt. I don't see it affecting the town finances at this time."

—Courtesy of the *Sandisfield Times*

The Monterey Fire Company turned out in support of Sandisfield. Above left are Firefighter Keegan Wellauer (left), Capt. Del Martin (right), and Firefighter Kyle Hutson (behind). Monterey's new truck #172 poured in water from above with the aerial master stream. Photos by Simon Winchester, courtesy of the Sandisfield Times.

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Lake Garfield Working Group

Working toward a Definition of a Healthy Lake Garfield

The Lake Garfield Working Group (LGWG) has further synthesized results from the Monterey community survey on the health of Lake Garfield, with a focus on how we, as a community, answer the question: What makes for a healthy Lake Garfield? As a group, we have known since our inception that answering this question is fundamental to developing a sustainable lake health management plan. We have come to understand and appreciate that providing a collective answer to this question is not easy. This is due to multiple factors—the complex science of freshwater ecology and biology, the varied social and economic factors at play, and the varied relationships each of us Monterey residents has with Lake Garfield.

Question two of the survey asked participants to describe/define what they believe makes for a "healthy Lake Garfield." We were encouraged to have received written responses to this question from 70% of participants (43 of 59 responses), each offering valuable perspectives and opinions. As expected, responses varied and touched upon different aspects of Lake Garfield—some addressing biological and ecological factors; others addressing recreational usage and accessibility; one participant even expanded on the role that a healthy Lake Garfield plays in bringing the Monterey community closer together.

By identifying and compiling data on the frequency of key words and themes that emerged, we can progressively move closer to identifying what "lake health" means to us as a community. Participants cited factors that contribute to a healthy lake, as well as factors that contribute to their understanding of an "unhealthy lake."

Factors perceived to positively support lake health:

- 33% made mention of either plant and animal life directly, or otherwise the importance of a well-balanced ecosystem;
- 23% identified the importance of accessibility to various recreational activities including swimming, boating and fishing;
- 8% of those surveyed mentioned the importance of "clean water," namely water that can be safely, albeit accidentally, ingested.

Factors perceived to negatively affect lake health:

- 28% mentioned invasive plants (18% referred specifically to milfoil);
- 22% identified the dangers of pesticides, herbicides, and other chemical contaminants;
- 17% referred to nuisance weeds, mainly for safety reasons while swimming and boating.
- Other topics of note include natural beauty, accessibility, and community.

As we move into winter and looking forward to next year's growing season, the LGWG will continue to examine this question of "lake health," and what it means for lake management activities moving forward.

Sample survey responses on lake health:

"A healthy lake maintains a balance of plant and animal life natural to the ecology of the region. A healthy lake is not eutrifying*. It is not polluted with fuel products or human or agricultural waste." (*Eutrification: excessive richness of nutrients in a lake or other body of water, frequently due to runoff from the land, which causes a dense growth of plant life and death of animal life from lack of oxygen.)

"I think a 'healthy' lake, or any natural area, is one in which the ability of that area to change, to adapt, to tolerate new conditions, is essentially managed by natural means, without a lot of human intervention, regardless of intent. In addition, I think any natural area will be healthier in the long term by reductions in human impacts. Most human impacts stem from consumption of resources in the forms of machinery, density, and thoughtlessness. As these impacts are better managed and reduced, natural areas have a greater ability to adapt and tolerate new conditions."

"The lake should be preserved as a 'semi-wild' area where residents and visitors can quietly enjoy its natural beauty and observe wildlife. The water should be safe for swimming, boating, and fishing. The lake should be kept clear of invasive species such as milfoil that push out native species and impede recreation."

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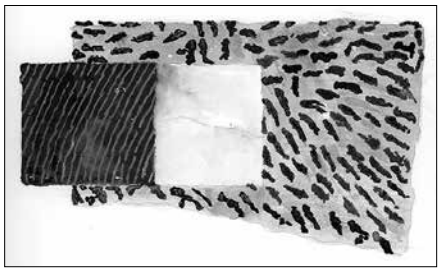
Knox Gallery News

The Knox Gallery's community exhibit, *Eclipsed*, opened December 8. As anticipated, *Eclipsed* boasts a wide range of exciting pieces, once again illustrating the breadth of artistic talent present in our community. We are pleased that this offering features not only the work of loyal friends and artists who have supported the gallery through the years, but the work of several talented newcomers who also contributed.

Over forty artists participated in *Eclipsed*, which is Knox Gallery's largest community show yet. The exhibiting artists are: Joe Baker, Maureen Banner, Steve Butler, Wendy Benjamin, Susan Cain, Liesl Carlson, Lu Lu Carlson, Christine Christinat, Bonsai Cox, Erika Crofut, Essy Shapiro Dean, Patricia Frik, Peter Goldberg, Robin Goldberg, Christine Goldfinger, Ron Goldfinger, Ellen Grenadier, Mary Kate Jordan, Tasja Keetman, Jd Logan, Rosemary Cash McAlister, Mary Makuc, Nadia Makuc, Michael Marcus, Del Martin, Sally Eagle, Dan Mead, Kit Patten, Philip Pryjma, Alan Roland, Myrna Rosen, Pat Salomon, Randy Schwartz, Julie Shapiro, Anne Shatas, Marc Simmons, Jim Singelis, Linda Skipper, Abaye Steinmetz-Silber, Susan Terni Taff, Rose Tannenbaum, Katherine Ryan Waiveris, Elizabeth Wolf, MaryPaul Yates, and Cheryl Zellman.

Eclipsed*, pen and ink, © Kit Patten*



Ondine*, © Leslie Carsewell*

Eclipsed, Knox Gallery's fifty-seventh exhibit celebrates the gallery's seventh birthday, and will remain on view through Saturday, January 13. Exhibiting artists, please note—all exhibited work must be picked up at the library either Saturday, January 13, 7 to 9 p.m., or Monday, January 15, 7 to 9 p.m.

Intersections, which features the work of Leslie Carsewell, opens on January 19. Carsewell, who has lived in the Berkshires for over fifteen years, began making collaged compositions from her drawings, which evolved into direct paintings. She describes her work as, "an outgrowth of design problem solving using grids." Her materials are limited and simple, and are used to enhance the initial compositions with color, subtle but emphatic line work, and texture. She sees a direct correlation between her work and music. "Rhythm, texture, points of emphasis, and silence all play their part. Both positive and negative/empty spaces are equally important," the artist states.

Please join us on Saturday, January 20, from 6 to 7:30 p.m., for the opening reception for *Intersections*.

All exhibits can be viewed during library hours. Knox Gallery, Monterey Library, MontereyMassLibrary.org/knox-gallery/ 452 Main Road, Monterey, MA, 413-528-3795. Facebook.com/Knox Gallery Instagram.com/knoxgallery @ Knox_Gallery on Twitter.

—MaryPaul Yates

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and adults—townspeople and visitors alike. A healthy lake will promote gatherings of young and old; chances to meet the folks of Monterey, regardless of full or part-time residency. A healthy lake will bring the Monterey community closer."

For further insights, we encourage readers to refer to the LGWG article in the December issue of *Monterey News* which synthesizes the quantitative results of the Monterey Community Survey on the health of Lake Garfield.

The Lake Garfield Working Group is a Town of Monterey entity charged with assessing and developing strategies to maintain the health of the Lake Garfield watershed. Meetings of the LGWG are open to the public and are held at the town hall. Our next meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 8, at 7 p.m.

—Eric Danforth
Lake Garfield Working Group

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Monterey Broadband Committee

The Monterey Broadband Committee wishes a happy and healthy 2018 and broadband for all!

As a reminder, the broadband committee's responsibility, and the "zeal" with which we take up our task, is to recommend a solution for Monterey that adapts to the rapid evolution in communications technology and the business models driving access to content.

As far as providers and the state goes, there is not much to report on. Charter has yet to respond to our requests to meet and discuss their proposal with the committee, rendering a twelve-to-eighteen month roll-out moot. In a recent encounter on December 19, Anna Lucy, the lead Charter municipal contact, explained that emails/requests received by her are funneled up the management chain and she cannot respond until permitted to do so. *(Update note: See letter at right.)*

Fiber Connect continues to connect Monterey residents and continues to wire Egremont. Fiber Connect submitted an additional response to MBI, however there has been no notification from the state received by the Monterey Broadband Committee regarding this response.

Members of the broadband committee met with Egremont and New Marlborough to discuss MBI and broadband. We will continue to work together as a block to develop and implement a strategy to unlock the state/MBI grant monies. New Marlborough, as of this writing, is no longer talking with Frontier. Fiber Connect continues to build out in Egremont while that town is waiting on Charter.

Charter
COMMUNICATIONS

January 3, 2018

Select Board
Town of Monterey
435 Main Road
Monterey, MA 01245

Dear Members of the Select Board of the Town of Monterey,

Thank you for your renewed interest in Charter Communications as a possible provider of high speed broadband service in the Town of Monterey under the second round of RFPs issued by the Mass Broadband Institute (MBI). Regrettably, at this time, Charter is not able to submit a second response to MBI to serve the Town of Monterey. As you know, Charter previously expressed interest in Monterey as part of a group bid with other towns in the first round of RFPs issued by MBI in January of 2017 under the Last Mile Grants to Provide Broadband Service to Unserved Communities in Western Massachusetts. As part of that RFP process, Charter met with representatives of Monterey in June 2017 to discuss Charter's video, internet and phone service and details of our construction timeline, and encouraged the town to consider Charter as part of its group bid. When MBI requested a final response from towns interested in selecting Charter as their broadband provider by the end of June of 2017, Charter was not selected by Monterey. Unfortunately, circumstances have changed since the first round of RFPs and Charter currently has no plans to seek grant funding for Monterey in the second round of MBI RFPs.

If this changes, we will reach back out to you. In the meantime, we have appreciated your professionalism during this process and wish you well with your selection of a broadband provider.

Sincerely,

Anna P. Lucey
Director, Government Affairs

Late breaking news just prior to printing this issue. Charter Communications responded to the town's invitation to have further talks about building a broadband system. The state has been encouraging this avenue as part of qualifying to receive the MBI funds. It appears that Charter has closed the door on this possibility.

Several members of the committee attended the December 19 meeting of the Five Town Cable Advisory Committee (Great Barrington, Sheffield, Lee, Lenox and Stockbridge) to listen to an update from Charter/Spectrum regarding the deployment and ongoing upgrade in those towns. The questions and subsequent answers will help us when Charter schedules to meet with us.

In the meantime, we have what now may be considered an incumbent wiring areas of the town on their own nickel. We still wait for the folks at Charter to acknowledge our requests to meet and discuss their proposal and offerings.

—Cliff Weiss, chair
Monterey Broadband Committee

❊

Dennis J. Downing
Attorney at Law

❊

17 Mahaiwe Street
Great Barrington
Massachusetts 01230

Telephone: (413) 528-5040
Facsimile: (413) 528-5095
Email:dennis.downing@verizon.net

Transfer Station Winter Hours

Sunday	10 a.m.–4:30 p.m.
Wednesday	8 a.m.–1 p.m.
Saturday	8 a.m.–1 p.m.

Pam Johnson

Parks Commission

Rink Schedule

Many thanks to the great team of volunteers who set up the skating rink on December 2 (above). If we get continuous cold weather, ice can be added with the hope of skating by the new year. Go to Facebook and search for Monterey MA Outdoor Skating Rink to get news of the opening and ice conditions. Weather permitting, the rink will be open from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. each day.

Free skating—figure skaters, families, and recreational skaters Sunday through Friday from noon to 7 p.m., and Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Adult hockey times are Sunday through Friday, 9 a.m. to noon, and 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. daily.

Please skate responsibly and shovel before you leave!

Lake News

Two large canoes have been left on the dam. Would the owners please move them, the dam needs to be kept clear.

—Pam Johnson
Monterey Parks Commission

From the Tax Collector

The fiscal year 2018 real estate and personal property bills for the third quarter will be mailed in late December and are due February 1. If you do not receive your bill, please contact the tax collector's office at 528-1443 x117.

Please direct all questions regarding assessments, abatement applications, and personal property taxes to the Board of Assessors, PO Box 488, Monterey, MA 01245 or call 528-1443 x115.

To accommodate taxpayers who want the convenience of paying Monterey real estate and personal property taxes online, an online payment option is available. To pay your tax, you must have your current bill and checkbook/credit card in hand. Log on to www.montereyma.gov and click on "Pay real estate taxes online." You will need to enter your current bill number and the current bill year (2018). The bank will assess a minimal fee of $0.25 per transaction. MasterCard, Visa, and Discover credit cards are also accepted. Please note the credit card company will charge the taxpayer a fee for the service. This fee is not assessed by or paid to the Town of Monterey.

—Mari Enoch
Monterey Tax Collector

Maureen Meier

Maureen said it was her first bear sighting in Monterey. (July 1998)

Open Burning Permits

The Monterey Fire Department will again be using an online application for burning permits. Permits will be available from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. daily, only when weather conditions allow for open burning. The DEP requires fires to be started after 10 a.m. and be extinguished by 4 p.m. for air quality purposes. Open burning season is from January 15 to May 1.

Go to bcburnpermits.com, read the regulations, and follow the section titled "How to obtain a permit." If you cannot obtain a permit online, you can call 413-445-4550 (Berkshire County Sheriff's office) between 8:30 a.m. and 1 p.m., and follow the prompts. Make sure you print out your permit and keep it with you when burning.

- You may only burn brush—no leaves, grass, hay, stumps, building debris, or any other material.
- All open burning must be a minimum of seventy-five feet from a building or structure.
- Burning is allowed only from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Any open re must be attended at all times by the permit holder.
- No person shall set, maintain, or increase a re in open air except by permit.
- You must be eighteen years or older to apply for a permit and tend the re.
- You must have a means to extinguish an open re completely at the end of the day or if requested by the re department.
- The re department can refuse or cancel a permit at any time.
- Open burning season is from January 15 to May 1.

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P.O.Box 9–Now Letters

For many years, letters to the *Monterey News* have been published under the headline P.O. Box 9 (our snail-mail address). We are still happy to receive letters through the postal service, but most of the letters come via email (montereynews9@gmail.com). Letters may address a broad range of topics, especially if they have a clear connection to Monterey or Monterey folks.

We only have two requirements. All letters must be signed, and letters may not attack the character or motivation of an individual (*ad hominem* arguments). This is an expectation that letters will address issues, ideas, developments, and contributions to the community. While it is not a restriction against strong language, we hope that writers will engage in respectful discourse.

—Stephen Moore, Editor, and the *Monterey News* Board of Directors

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Letters
Montereyans Are Very Fortunate

I refer to our great good luck in securing the incredibly thoughtful, courteous, and way-above-the-call-of-duty services of our new sergeant, Brian Fahey.

Although I had never met Sergeant Fahey, I experienced his can-do, helpful, "to protect and serve" manner last night, in the middle of our coldest, most nasty-road evening yet this season, Tuesday, December 12, after dark. When we returned home, from a few weeks away, to a miserably slushy, icy driveway on Mt. Hunger Road, we slipped off the road at the top of the drive and into a small ditch. I walked to the house and called the number that our Chief Backhaus has told me…and all of us…over and over again, to memorize—528-3211 when we need non-dire-emergency police help. Sergeant Fahey answered.

After that, and I'll keep it brief, he couldn't have been more helpful— within a short time his cruiser appeared at my drive and he made all the calls (my mobile wasn't getting service that night) necessary to get the car pulled out and out of danger.

Throughout this misadventure which could have been more serious, Sergeant Fahey remained calm, in control, friendly, concerned, respectful and indeed, everything we could want in a police officer for Monterey. He's a true professional.

He's new to our town—so welcome him!

Gratefully,

—Nancy Kalodner
Mt. Hunger Road

Letters
Free Speech and Stragglers

In response to a letter published in the December issue of the *Monterey News*, "The Rainbow and the Cross," by Mark Farnham.

If Mr. Farnham had felt compelled, for whatever reason, to submit a statement of his faith to a local newspaper, and had done just that, we might have respected that letter as an exercise of his right to free speech and religious expression, however unsophisticated the statement. But in his published letter, Mr. Farnham, rather than making a statement of his own religious beliefs, instead launches an attack on the members of our local church, addressing them directly, and calling into question their spiritual fidelity, validity, and vitality with insults that are both cruel and cheap. It is this personal attack on a group of individuals within our community, as much as the homophobia, xenophobia, and religious intolerance expressed in the letter, that disturbs and offends many of us in town. We expect better than this in the public discourse.

Regarding Mr. Farnham's remark about "stragglers," it made me think of the early Christians, small bands of stragglers worshipping joyfully and loving faithfully in the face of attacks and a world filled with hate.

—Katherine Tryon
Lowland Farm, Monterey

ॐ

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Letters

Only Love

We Quakers have an expression I have liked all my life: "That Friend speaks my mind." I say this now about Liz Goodman, Pastor of the Monterey United Church of Christ, who wrote a fine piece in the October issue of the *Monterey News*, entitled "A Blind Front, An Open Church." And I say that Quaker expression to myself, when I drive through the center of our town and see the banner and the flag on the church. I thank the congregation for speaking up. Here are words from another who speaks my mind, Martin Luther King, Jr.:

"Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that."

—Bonner McAllester

John Sellew

Meanwhile, outside the store in December, …Bears Probably

MONTEREY LIBRARY

If you haven't before, now is a great time to join the Friends of the Library!

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.....7–9 p.m.

Phone 528-3795

"Soil and Shul"

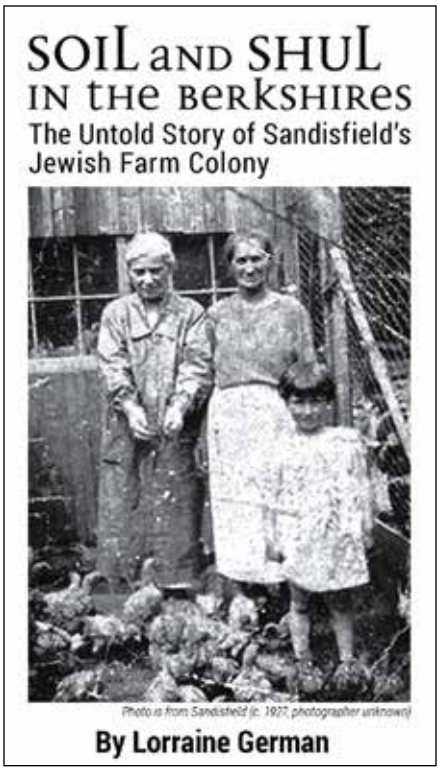
Seeking Support for Publication

A Sandisfield committee working on a book entitled *Soil and Shul in the Berkshires: The Untold Story of Sandisfield's Jewish Farm Colony*, has announced a fundraising campaign to support the project. The Sandisfield Arts Center is serving as the fiscal sponsor.

The book is expected to be about 250 pages and will include chapters on social, economic, and religious life, and rare photos. It will serve both as a resource for scholars as well as delightful and entertaining reading for anyone connected to or interested in the Jewish experience in the Berkshires. Publication is scheduled for summer of 2018.

Principal author and local historian, Lorraine German, said, "The legacy of the Jewish immigrants from eastern Europe who came here by way of New York over a century ago is very compelling. These Jews formed the largest ethnic group to settle in Sandisfield in the twentieth century. It is past time that their fascinating story be told and preserved."

The committee is seeking financial support in the form of lead gifts in the range of $100 to $500 or more. This will ensure a high quality book at a very affordable price to reach many homes, schools, libraries, and Jewish cultural organizations


SOIL AND SHUL
IN THE BERKSHIRES
The Untold Story of Sandisfield's Jewish Farm Colony
Photo is from Sandisfield (c. 1927, photographer unknown)
By Lorraine German

in western Massachusetts. Donors at these levels will be recognized in the book.

Tax deductible contributions may be directed to: Jewish History Book, Sandisfield Arts Center, P. O. Box 31, Sandisfield, MA 01255. For more information, contact Ronald Bernard at Ronbernard@aol.com, or by phone at 413 269-0012.

—Ron Bernard
Sandisfield

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Here's a Thought...

It's been snowing most of today. That's seldom news in January, but I'm writing during winter storm Benji, Monterey's first significant snowfall of the 2017-18 season. The weather tossed my original plans for the day into a hat.

I was going to meet a friend in Greenfield for lunch before we both attended an afternoon and early evening event. The event leader emailed a cancellation notice early this morning, which was both disappointing and wonderfully luxurious. Now, though I have plenty to do, I also have hours and hours of unscheduled time. What a luxury!

Getting to first things first, I chatted with my now-also-unscheduled friend for a half hour. I gathered some already-written-and-stamped Christmas cards and put them on the table near the door to go to the post office. Breakfast, lunch, laundry, conversations with Bonsai, email, and meditation each took up time. So did my forty-five-minute nap.

More than an hour ago, I came downstairs to my office and opened my laptop to write this article. I then proceeded to finish off a little more Christmas shopping, and collected a half-dozen new, rather intriguing recipes. Some of those are for main courses, some for desserts, one for a new-to-me salad dressing, and one for waffles.

It's been fifteen, maybe twenty, years since the last time I made waffles. Awareness of this tidbit of truth was a well-deserved wake-up call. So I asked myself, "Are you done fooling around now? Or do you want to go back upstairs, admit a comfortable defeat, and pretend you'll always have this time, space, health, and opportunity?"

Mary Kate Jordan

Snowfall over Stevens Lake at dawn.

Hmmm. Yeah, I could follow that first impulse: maybe go upstairs, strike up a fire in the wood stove, and settle down to catch up on some of those recorded episodes of NCIS, Blue Bloods, Chicago Med, and last winter's Victoria series still waiting for me to get to them. After all, the sun will set in an hour or so; it's Saturday, and weekend evenings are for relaxing. I did get a quarter of my Christmas cards into the mail this morning. Or, option 2, I could comb through those new recipes and decide on something special to fix for dinner. On the other hand, I could actually nail some thoughts to paper for a first draft. Decisions, decisions. What's a snowbound writer to do?

I drifted into a happy reverie. The opening for the *Eclipse* community show at the Knox Gallery the night before was such a treat. Kudos to Julie Shapiro, Mary Paul Yates, and Michael Banner for doing all the thankless, necessary behind the scenes let's-get-this-baby-birthed tasks. More kudos to everyone in Monterey, and beyond, who contributed pieces to the show and food for the opening. The gallery was full of varied, beautiful, and compelling work. I had many wonderful conversations with old friends and new acquaintances; the buzz in the room indicated that was a common occurrence. What a town treasure the Knox Gallery is, and the Friends of the Monterey Library, are.

You probably relate to the idea of this town as a treasure we share. You may, or may not, be able to relate to my luxurious Saturday time-use dilemma. There's no telling how many of you had to go to work, pick up a loved one at Bradley Airport, or drive into Great Barrington for baby food, a half-gallon of milk, or a needed prescription, during the snow storm. But since you're reading this article, you can safely assume I decided to write while the snow fell and the sun set. You'd also be right if you guess that I'm glad I did. I hope you are, too.

—Mary Kate Jordan

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Made In Monterey
Holiday Sale

It seemed all of the Berkshires was buzzing with events on Saturday, December 2, but that didn't stop nearly two hundred people from dropping by the Monterey Community Center for the first "Made in Monterey" holiday market. The nine Monterey artists selling their creations were—Del Martin, blacksmith; Sue Cain, fiber arts; Maureen and Michael Banner, silversmiths; painters Christine and Ron Goldfinger, Julie Shapiro, and Joe Baker; Ellen Grenadier, potter; and Wendy Jensen, basket weaver. Hanna Jensen sold her luscious artisan baked goods.

It was a wonderful day as neighbors, friends, and families shopped and chatted. Delightful conversations happened among old and new friends. There were overheard comments such as, "The vibe in here is really lovely." "What a wonderful way to meet our precious Monterey artists." "I love buying gifts made right here in town." "Hope you will do this market again."

Sales were good and the artists had a chance to connect with customers who wanted to know more about the process they use to create. People now know where they can purchase hand-crafted items for their homes and gifts any time of the year.

The success of this event is due to an enthusiastic team of volunteers, who include Maureen Banner, who designed posters and postcards; Dorene Beller, who made sure that all the news outlets listed our event; Mary Makuc, who spread the word and distributed posters and postcards; Joe Baker and Michael Banner, who obtained and set up display panels along the walls (there was even a blueprint of the layout of the room); and Maureen Banner and Mary Makuc, who made sure that there were ample refreshments.

The Monterey Community Center program committee is meeting on Thursday, January 4, at 7:30 p.m. Please join us—this is a good time to jump on board and help make sure we have many more great events.

—Wendy Germain

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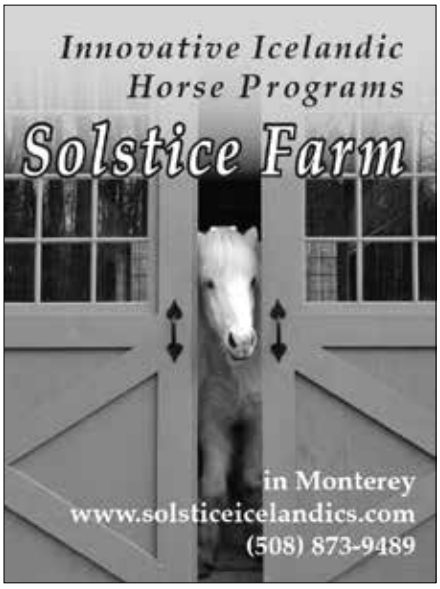


Above: Joe Baker talking with Kevin West, with Frank and Julie Kern nearby.
At left: Bonner McAllester and Julie Shapiro chat as Joe Baker is speaking with Ron Goldfinger.
Below left: Del Martin displayed a custom designed woodrack outside.
Below right: Ellen Grenadier's pottery.
Photos by Stephen Moore

Monterey Community Potluck Suppers

Join us on January 17
Charles Flint from Lenox

Charles will speak about the art and antiques business.

See the community potluck supper article on page 2.

3rd Wednesdays, October–May
6 p.m. Fellowship Hall
Monterey Church

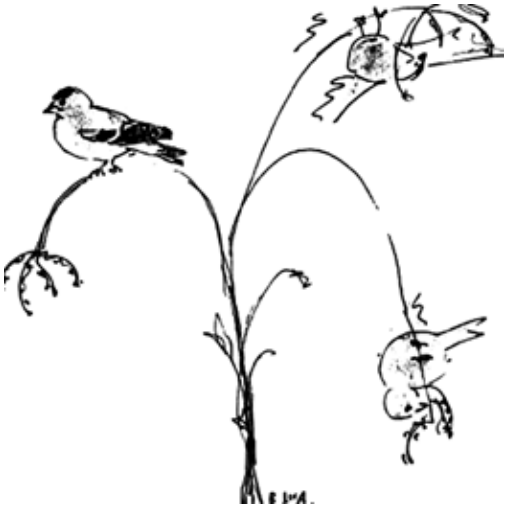
For more information,
call Kyle Pierce, 528-9213

Snow, to Open Our Eyes, to Keep Track

This is the dark time of year, when the ancient Celts used to party as hard as they could in order to "drive the cold winter away." They identified the cutty wren as personifying winter, beat it up and dragged it through the streets, singing and drinking to make sure the king of winter was dead. Maybe we human animals, evolved to live in tropical places, are afraid of the dark and the very cold. We survive thanks to clothing, shelter, and other adaptations. We also have some great songs and traditions passed along, all about solstice and blazing Yule logs. Besides this, when we head outside after a snowfall, even a little skift of snow, we always see a great light. Sheer beauty and revelation must surely do much to save our hides.

In the first place, the paths and fields are covered with a new crystal blanket, twinkling in the sun and even in moon and starlight. This blanket takes an imprint, tells a tale, and suddenly we can see the tracks of our neighbors, the shy ones who are mostly out at night. Any time of year the most ardent watchers among us may know a bobcat has visited, or a fox crossed the road, but then once the snow album comes softly down, anyone can sleep late and still go out and see the mouse highway that runs under the porch, or the deer trail through the woods. Ernest Thompson Seton told about "mud albums" in his book *Two Little Savages*. Those kids in the woods, learning all the time, knew where the good places were along a brook, or after a rain. Reading tracks in snow is a particular art and changes with the depth of the snow, its quality, and changing temperatures. It matters if it is a place in the shade, or in the wind. Things change if the day has gotten melty, maybe even rainy, and then frozen up. The fine points of reading the album are wonderfully varied.

As if this were not enough, the white blanket is a catching place, a mat board, a background for all sorts of treasures and messages falling on it. We think of seeds as a fall crop, a harvest that comes soon after blossom-time. Many seeds are so small and so earth-colored that we have to be sharp-eyed to spot them most of the year. Once the white blanket is in place, anyone can easily see. The tiny seeds of our white birches appear, blown or shaken down from way up in the catkins where we nearly never look. Some winters I have seen them landed and blown about on a crusty snow that was itself dimpled by rain before it froze over. Each little depression contains a birch seed, perfectly distributed all through the woods, spread far from the mother tree. Next change in temperature, or next new fall



of a white blanket, and those seeds will be held in place until warmer times let them down to the ground to disappear from easy sight until the growing season when they start their changes.

One birch catkin makes hundreds of seeds, and birds will gobble many of them up, even before they fall. Some winters we get an irruption of redpolls down from the arctic, come to our bird feeders and to our birches. They usually can get plenty in their northern wintering grounds, but when there is an off year for those birches, the redpolls travel south. This year the birch seeds here are plentiful, every hour more and more peppering the white blanket. They are about half an inch long and look like little beige fleur de lis.

We have a few hop hornbeams near our sugarhouse, and they are dropping their seeds, too, each hard shiny seed hidden in a much bigger papery pouch. These look like flattened oval balloons. The tall wildflowers of summer still stand and their seeds, too, scatter on the snow. I think especially of Queen Anne's lace. Goldfinches love these seeds and know all about them. No doubt if I were to come back as a goldfinch and rely on these seeds for my winter meals I would know all about them, too. For now, this time around, all I have is my interest, my curiosity, my amazement. How lucky we are to have the snow to help us see.

I hope not to come back as an ancient Celt who clobbers little birds in hopes of driving winter away.

—Bonner McAllester

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Community Center News

The Monterey Community Center is hosting the Town Yarners again. This group meets this month on January 4, and the first Thursday of every month, from 1 to 3 p.m. Wendy Jensen and others are gathering to work on old projects or start new ones. Bring your own material or yarn, tools, patterns, and ideas. Knitting or crocheting, embroidery, felt work, stitching or mending, it's all welcome and so are you.

No need to call ahead to register. This group is very informal. It is the perfect time to finish that sweater you started or start a blanket for the baby on the way or child going to college, or make something for yourself. You will be glad you stopped in. The next Town Yarners will be on February 8.

Dancersize got off to a rousing start in December and continues into January and beyond. It is an upbeat and friendly exercise class. Just bring your sneakers on Thursdays, from 4 to 5 p.m. Barbara Cohen is the instructor and she will welcome you and get you moving to a Latin beat. The class is free to Monterey residents. A small fee ($5) is expected for those from other towns.

We are looking forward to hosting Bidwell House Museum history talks in the spring. Look for more about that in February or March.

Thanks to Hume Lake Camp for welcoming the town to their cookie swap on December 9, and leaving decorations and a Christmas tree behind. It brightened up our dark days in December. The days are already getting longer as you read this and we will be planning spring programs.

If you have any questions about the MCC or want to book us for an event, please call 413-528-3600, or send an email to calendar@ccmonterey.org.

Thanks for being with us in 2017!

—Mary Makuc

Wayne Dunlop

A Gould Farm burro with a three o'clock shadow. (April 1998)

While the store is closed, readers can pick up copies from this box. It is currently mounted on the side of the library's bookmobile box, but by early February will hopefully be relocated to the porch at the store. Copies of the Sandisfield and Otis papers may also be available. The News is also generally available in the town office foyer, the library, and at the Roadside Café.

SUSAN M. SMITH
Attorney At Law

38 Mahaiwe St., Suite 1
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Massachusetts 01230

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Holiday Window On Buzzards Bay

Another year of residential uncertainty is over as Jan and I moved into our new home along the shore of the historic nautical town of Fairhaven, with an even better natural seaside panorama than our previous location in Mattapoisett. We wake up each morning to greet the spectacular sweeping vista to the east, framed by our living room glass doors. We often catch sight of lingering nocturnal wildlife. In my drawing Jan is taking in the splendor of dawn with all the decorative comforts of our new home.

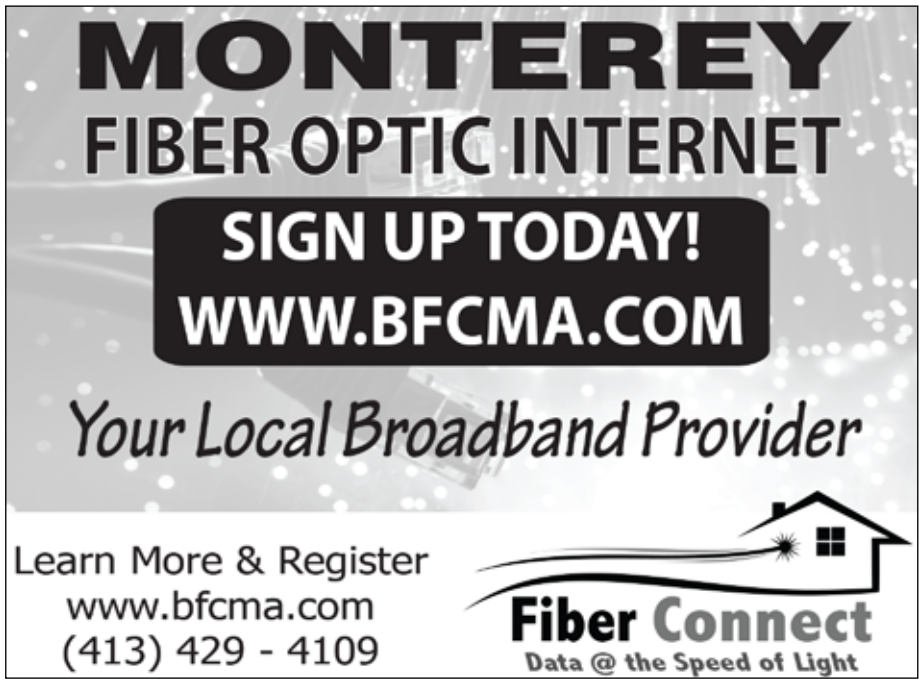
Somehow this relocation has also revitalized my creative inspiration to write and draw for the *Monterey News*, whose editor recently paid us a visit, and was able to savor Jan's clam chowder as well as this visual experience. He brought seasonal samples of preserved fruit from their kitchen, as well as the gift of a book relevant to our conversation. It is entitled *Dawn Light, Dancing With Cranes, and Other Ways to Start the Day*, written by Diane Ackerman. I already knew the quality of light at dawn reflecting across the water. The author points out that dawn light has a very special quality for artists to reproduce, and drew flocks of impressionist painters to the east bank of the Seine River in Paris for illumination and inspiration.

As a matter of creative interpretation, Paul Cezanne believed that all that most artists see are the intersections between nature and ourselves, of which we are a living part, where our brain and the universe meet. His contemporary, Monet, said that without light, in darkness, he felt he was dead. A lesser psychological effect can be possible with the coming of winter solstice on December 21, the shortest hours of daylight in the year. For some it brings on the winter blues, also classified medically as seasonal affective disorder.

When we trimmed our Christmas tree with ornaments and lights, perhaps in the spirit of reversing the spell of darkness, we were thankful that Thomas Edison in 1890 invented electric lights to replace the old-world seventeenth- century string of burning candles attached to tree branches with pins and melted wax. Not long after, he developed outdoor lights, lifting the human spirit of the season all over the civilized world. The climax of decoration for me is the placement of the star at the very top of the tree, which is symbolic of the bright and shining star over the little town of Bethlehem, bringing the Magi from the east with gifts for the coming of our dear savior lord.

Although we are always nostalgic on New Year's Eve, the first light of dawn the following day is much more relevant to renewing the annual personal promise of our own wellbeing, as well as that of people everywhere. Observing dawn out our windows on Buzzards Bay reminds me of the meaningful history going back to first American Wampanoag tribe, who called themselves "people of the rising sun," believing themselves to be among the first people along the coast to see it rise out of the ocean. The nearby Narragansetts called themselves "people of the dawn," and even in later times published a small local paper by the same name. May your spirits in Monterey on this day, be similarly as spiritual as theirs. We send our best wishes for you from Buzzards Bay.

—George B. Emmons



Boundary Busting

Boundaries have their place. They help us to define and differentiate. They simplify matters, make them more comprehensible and consistent. They can offer protection and provide security. Defying boundaries could spell trouble, create confusion, and spark resistance.

But boundaries aren't what they used to be. Persistent economic, cultural, and technological pressures present a serious challenge. Boundaries are, as a consequence, bending, breaking, even disappearing. The result often is confusion, conflict, but also opportunity.

Here's a sampling of what's happening out there—

It almost seems these days that everyone is selling everything. In addition to filling up the gas tank, you're likely drawn into the attached "convenience store" to pick up food, drinks, lottery tickets, etc. Wander through Target or Walmart and you will soon spot long grocery aisles. Stay at home and order virtually anything you want through Amazon.

"Made in America" goods remain but, more likely, many of the products we purchase are "outsourced," originating almost anywhere in the world. They are likely to have made several stops in different countries along the way. Globalization and increasing "free trade" have encouraged this trend—national boundaries are becoming obsolete.

Throughout history armies fought opposing armies, uniformed soldiers gathered together to attack opposing concentrations of troops. It's no longer that simple or well defined. Guerilla warfare follows few established conventions. Terror attacks assume many forms, can originate anyplace, and often involve "lone wolfs." Civilians are no longer off limits, while "special ops," drone operators, and fighter pilots are increasingly replacing conventional armies. Modern warfare has erased most boundaries.

Boundaries were once clearly demarcated when it came to holiday observance. Now publicity and preparations begin well ahead of time, Halloween "underway" a month in advance, likewise Christmas, while gearing up for "Back to School" starts just as August arrives.

Professional sports seasons, once well-defined, now appear to extend endlessly. The Boys of Summer are around forever (March to October) while the ice hockey playoffs continue until summer is nearly upon us. Sports "seasons" have blurred, flowed into one another, spilled over formal boundaries.

There once were seasonal fruits and vegetables, but now, thanks to imports, there's little reason to wait—they are always "in season," so can be purchased nearly all year round.

Once upon a time there were boxers and there were wrestlers, also those engaged in judo, karate, kung fu, jiu jitsu, etc. Nowadays, more and more fighters have turned to mixed martial arts. Formerly separate modes of combat have merged.

We all know what happened to age-old gender boundaries. The categories now extend well beyond male and female, with "straight" being just one of several possibilities. Gender-bending has gained formal recognition even though the battle over bathroom boundaries continues. Furthermore, strict racial categories, once viewed as central to the established social "order" are also blurring, thanks to increased intermarriage, plus genetic research that demonstrates that once accepted racial distinctions have no scientific foundation, the blending of populations long an undeniable fact of human history.

No need to go on though we could talk about movies now available on your computers from such "studios" as Netflix and Amazon, automobiles propelled both by gas and electricity, and smart phones putting the whole world at your fingertips. So much today is shifting, blurred, and blended. Little wonder that Trump, who wants to build a boundary such as a wall, limit foreign goods flowing into the United States and deny gender extensions, has legions of supporters. Many find it hard to understand or accept the new fluid landscape. After all, weren't so many of us as kids told when coloring to "stay within the lines"?

—Richard Skolnik

In Rememberance

Norman Baker, 89

On Wednesday, November 22, Norman Leonard Baker, age 89, of Windsor, MA died when his small plane crashed in a wooded area in Pittsford, VT as he was piloting north. Norman had been a resident of Monterey into the early 90s with a home on Beartown Mountain Road.

He was the beloved husband of the late Mary Ann Baker. He was the loving father of Daniel Baker and his partner Erin Shea of Starksboro, VT., Elizabeth and her husband Bill Atwood of Milton, MA, and Mitchell Baker and his husband Thom Egan of Provincetown, MA. He adored his grandchildren, Olivia, Emeline, Jacob, Phoebe, Hattie, Maya, and Isabella. His brother, Howard and his wife Cynthia,of New York, NY predeceased him.

Services were held at the West Cummington Congregational Church, inWest Cummington, MA on Sunday, December 10. Remembrances in Norman's name may be made to a charity of one's choice.

A more complete life story on Norman's life may be in the February issue.

From the Meetinghouse

We're talking Incarnation these days at the meetinghouse. In the liturgical seasons, Christmas and Epiphany, which January spans, we'll be meditating a lot in terms of Incarnation. The Incarnation of God in human form, the taking on flesh of the eternal Logos: this will be much on our minds.

Logos among the ancient Greeks around Jesus' time was understood as "word," but moreover as the logic of the universe, the divine reason implicit in the cosmos. It was, for this reason, a disembodied notion. The Logos couldn't be somewhere because it would have to be everywhere, the all in all. Likewise among the Jews around Jesus' time and later, Logos was though a new term for an ancient notion, also known as Wisdom or Sophia or Ruah, which is to say spirit or breath. The wind that blew over the darkened deep at the beginning, God's companion and consort before time began, Logos was wisdom, word, law—and was as such also insistently disembodied.

It was a scandal, then, to assert that this Logos had become embodied, and a bizarre one at that. Why would Logos deign to incarnation? Really, why risk the shame of embodied life? If shame is, among other things, the collision point between one's best intentions and one's most stubborn limitations, then it is an experience that comes very much with embodied life, our bodies being the locus of these most stubborn limitations. So, again, why would the elegant, flowing Logos condescend to this earthy experience of sharp corners, stubbed toes, and bodies that fall and fail and eventually die and decay?

Christianity is old, so there have been lots of answers to this often asked question. But my favorite one is this: love.

It's an answer that Cynthia Bourgeault beautifully explores in her book *The Wisdom Jesus*. In it, mindful of "seemingly irrevocable choices" that make up our lived experience, she also wonders whether this earthly realm and life in its midst, though terribly limited, terribly circumscribed, might also present "precisely the conditions for the expression of certain aspects of divine love that could become real in no other way…"

Could it be, in other words, that the world as it is, is exactly as it needs to be in order for certain aspects of love to be given expression and made real?—aspects such as persistence and faithfulness, compassion and patience, transgression and forgiveness, creativity and connection, full engagement and fine response. "These mature and subtle flavors of love," Bourgeault notes, "have no real context in a realm where there are no edges or boundaries, … where all just flows... But when you run up against the hard edge, what emerges is a most precious taste of pure divine love…" though manifest here, in this earthly realm, among us, within us.

I'm struck sometimes at how widely it's accepted that what limitations we might face are to be overcome, that what limits there are in life are to be regarded as even an affront to our freedom and our self-actualization. "You can be anything you want to be," we tell our children. "You can have anything you want to have," we seem to imply.

The thing is, though, they can't. We can't—for we're much more bound and determined than that. At some point, we will each and all encounter some boundary beyond which we cannot go. At some point the day will end and we'll need to go to sleep, or the money will run out and we'll need to go back to work and answer to a boss and punch in at a given hour. At some point, our strength will wane and our abilities will contract or new priorities will assert themselves and some things will fall away.

I'm struck by how widely such self-evident truths are denied because to my mind here is where life gets interesting. Here, amidst limits and boundaries, is where real creativity is demanded, real faithfulness gets tried, real hope is the truly valuable currency, and real love is the most powerful force there is.

That God, then, might want to come and give this bound and determined life a try, that the Logos would deign to this most challenging way of being: this wouldn't surprise me at all. No, it would delight me. I'd admire, and long to worship, God all the more for taking this risk, for giving earthbound love a try. The created order as God made it: now God would test, to see if it held.

I long for the sweet oblivion
of sleep
Its warm embrace calls me
beckoning with
silken hands
I move toward its dark depths
sinking deeper
It rocks me on a sea of lights
So I float
And wait for morning

—Simon Spagnoletti
June 1998

Artists limit themselves to some certain-sized canvases. Poets limit themselves to some form, however fixed or free, and from this might speak to the ages. Athletes submit themselves to the field of play and rules of the given game, and within these givens might move with astonishing power and grace. But no one manages such creative wonder without the discipline of limitation, even self-limitation. That God, then, would want to give this world that God's Logos has created it to be: this scandalizes me not at all.

But the Incarnation of God transcendent and eternal, which we at church recognize in Jesus Christ, probably isn't so scandalous a notion to anyone anymore. So familiar an assertion, if anything it might seem pedestrian, even ridiculous.

Its implications, though, are what keep me coming back to it. The urgency of love, the crucial task of loving, the commandment to love one another, and not just when we're loveable but moreover when we're proving ourselves not altogether worthy of love, for by this persistent love the world will be saved and is yet being saved: these are the implications of the transcendent made imminent. This charge is what we celebrate during these weeks in midwinter. This is what will be emanating from the meetinghouse this month. Come on in if you want to meditate on this more.

—Pastor Liz Goodman
Monterey United Church of Christ

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A Berkshire Winter

The naked trees like skeletons now stand,
Staunch silhouettes against a sunset sky;
Their ice-clad branches creaking in the wind
While from chimneys plumes of smoke are rising high.
Old Boreas his organ music plays
And often howls and whistles through the night,
Dipping and whirling in frolicsome ways
Piling the snow into mountains of white.

Then there are days in winter when the sun
Spreads scores of diamonds on the crusted snow,
Though conifers are bending to the ground
The howling, boisterous, winds have ceased to blow.
So peaceful is the stillness when the wind
Seems lost to oblivion once more
And flocks of birds, to feed, come sailing in,
Casting fleet shadows on my kitchen floor.

—Eleanor Kimberly
February 1998

On Browsing the *Monterey News*

Straggler that I am
I smack into a wall of words
Under "The Rainbow
And the Cross."
A solid, solemn
Column some three hundred
And seventy words thick;
A veritable barrier of twenty
One stark statements and one
Question.

Puzzling, I later climb the worn set
Of familiar steps up to where we few
Gather in God's name and find
God in the midst of us.

There where clarity so often
Satisfies my ever nuanced questions
My heart opens to the way through.

Can any wall man wills to build
Stand
Impervious
To Grace?

—Donna Burkhart
December 2017

Winter Sunset

Another moment passed
When the space you occupy
Is empty
Of all but memory

When the beauty
That fills my eyes
Seems to murmur
"He is here
In this instant, in this glory
He is here."

But my arms are empty
I hear nothing
But the wind
I see nothing
But remote, perpetual splendor
I feel no touch
But the cold,
I feel foolish and alone

—Leslie Givet
February 1998

For My Darling

As the last coin is counted
All has turned to gold,
Love has truly minted
More than life could hold!

—Alice O. Howell-Andersen
May 1998

Stag Moon Rut

and there you are
again, Dream
haloed high above
the naked maples
this beautiful
old gnarly
dancing apple tree
beseeching you.

—Boney Oscar
December 2017

Monterey—Looking Back Twenty Years—"Monterey News" from 1998

January begins a new year, but the years past have been important as well. As we shift gears for the new year, I am offering the opportunity of looking back at events from the 1998 Monterey News *issues. Back issues are available by request for use in the library.* *—Stephen Moore, Editor*

Home Town Rule-Not Really

Jet Ski Ban

The town debated banning jet skis on Lake Garfield and Lake Buel. The select board, early in February, held a public hearing about two possible bylaws prohibiting jet skis on Lake Garfield and on the portion of Lake Buel that is within Monterey. Some residents raised the issues of irresponsible operation of the vehicles, excessive speed, and those that pass too close to shorelines. Others spoke about the noise generated by those who just go back and forth for long periods of time. Dean Amidon, the harbor master, noted that he has observed people not following safe boating rules. Several people contended that the problems were created by "outsiders," and by people who had been drinking.

People who opposed a ban felt that it was an invasion of their individual rights. Peter Chait said that his children had been educated on boating safety and enjoy the sport responsibly. Susan Bachelder, a jet skier, said the noise and danger were generated by outsiders. There was a suggestion that only residents be permitted to use the lake for this purpose, but no one knew how this could be regulated.

At a special town meeting in late February the ban was passed by a vote of 36 to 23.

Subsequently, the MA Environmental Police rejected the ban, saying, "A prohibition on the operation of personal watercraft does not appear to be warranted at this time." In addition, to institute any regulation on Lake Buel, as it is within two town boundaries, would require both towns to adopt the same regulation.

Cell Tower Moratorium

At a previous special town meeting in September 1997, the town approved a bylaw placing a six-month moratorium on locating any telecommunications facilities in the town of Monterey. While the Attorney General office approved the moratorium, Maggie Leonard of the planning board made it clear that due to the federal telecommunications act, it would eventually be impossible to say no to locating towers within town.

At the special town meeting in late February the town passed, by voice vote, a bylaw establishing a Wireless Telecommunications Overlay District to be within the radius of one quarter-mile of the top of Mount Wilcox, in Beartown State Forest.

In March, the MA Department of Telecommunications and Energy ruled that companies can bypass local planning board and zoning regulations for siting towers.

Note: We continue today having home rule over-ruled both in managing Lake Garfield (the ban on herbicides and pesticides) and with charting a course for building a broadband network.

School District Struggles

Representation

At the end of 1997, the five towns of the Southern Berkshire Regional School District (SBRSD) were stymied in trying to come to an agreement about proportional voting among the towns.

So that the SBRSD can continue to function, the towns agreed to have the representatives appointed by the select boards, or by school committees elected solely for that purpose. The towns are growing weary of the effort and legal expense from trying to reach a resolution.

A lawsuit, instituted by Sheffield, was still pending in Judge Ponsor of federal court in Springfield. As of the April issue, it appeared the case may go to trial. The judge did issue a statement indicating he might favor district-wide voting, apparently in an effort to help the towns come to a resolution without a trial.

Sheffield's lawsuit had sought to increase their town's influence in district decision making. The December issue reported that Judge Ponsor ruled that the current agreement of representatives to be appointed, could stand, and did not alter Sheffield's degree of influence. Sheffield, as the plaintiff, was left with $16,000 in legal fees.

It was noted that the Monterey Select Board declined to engage with the wrangling over the voting, and thereby spared the town legal fees of its own.

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Assessments

The entirely separate issue of the towns' school assessments dogged the towns all year. It was learned in May that the assessments of the school budget among the five towns had not been properly distributed, with some towns being overcharged for their portion of the budget, Monterey among them.

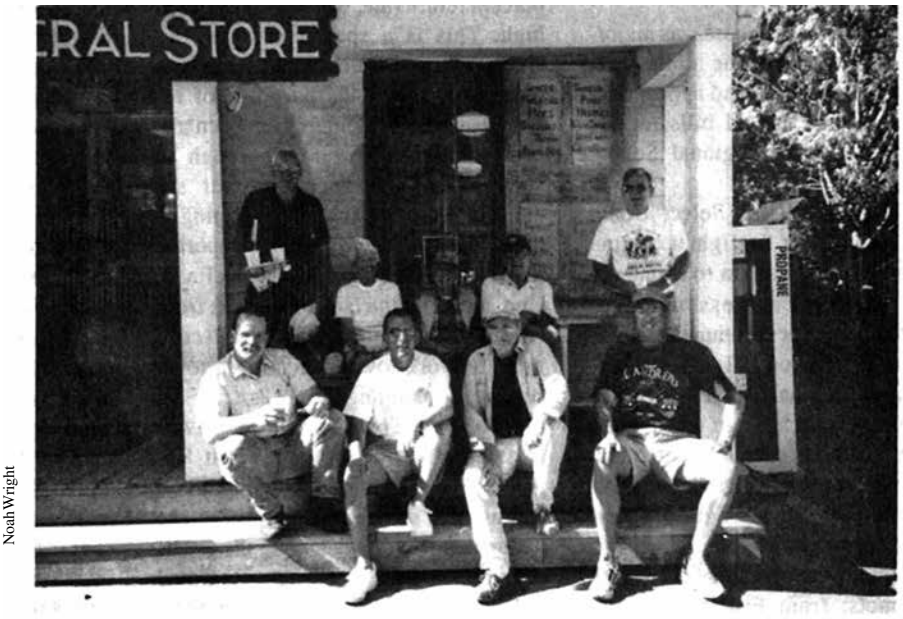
In addition, it was discovered that the state had overpaid some of its capital contribution to the building of the Mount Everett campus, which thus requires the district to begin a years-long repayment of $100,000 per year until 2011. Superintendent William Cooper expressed concern for the impact this debt will have on the district students. He also expressed what others seem to feel, that the $25 million school was probably too much for the tax base of the five towns to have taken on. He pointed out that the position of the school, in the southwest corner of Massachusetts, makes it geographically only able to draw additional students from towns to the north.

In October the towns agreed to a three-year interim agreement for assessments to be based on the per-pupil counts of each town. The capital budget was shared by the towns' property valuations and is not contested. However, in November, Sheffield realized that with the addition of ten students, the per-pupil assessment was going to raise Sheffield's assessment by $200,000. A proposed vote at each of the towns, scheduled for late October, was rescheduled to early December to give the towns an opportunity to renegotiate.

There was hope that, at a special town meeting in December, the town could vote on an article that would put in place an assessment agreement that was initially favored by all five towns. However, Sheffield realized that now, instead of a $200,000 increase, they were looking at a $300,000 increase based on the per-pupil assessment plan, and so withdrew their support for this agreement. Select board member Muriel Lazzarini said, "They want us (the other four towns) to adopt their students." A new strategy being discussed was to amend the article on the warrant to agree to a rolling average of several years' attendance figures, to avoid a sudden tax assessment increase in a single year.

At the December special town meeting the town did vote to support the per-pupil assessment agreement. However, while Monterey supported amending the agreement to include the rolling average approach, Sheffield continued to balk at the details. Because of Sheffield's resistance, Peter Brown said that the town would no longer support the per-pupil amendment.

If an agreement cannot be reached during the three-year period, then the assessments would revert to the 1993 agreement, which none of the towns favored.



Noah Wright

The unofficial Monterey General Store coffee club enjoyed a sunny Sunday. From left to right, back row: George Emmons (standing), Betsey Camp, Dick Tryon, Henry Wolfer, Leroy Thorpe. Front row: Paul Wolfer, Steve Kahn, Art Funk, and Ed "Cliff" Briggs.

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Town News

Town Hall

The need for town hall renovations was in the news. After the town decided that it would not be suitable to use the Wilson-McLaughlin house, as it stood at the time (where the community center is now), architect David Bixby was asked to prepare a plan for renovating and adding to the current town hall. His plan, which called for a 1600 square foot addition to the existing 1200-square-foot town hall, provided for greater accessibility, including a modest elevator to the basement, office space for every department that required it, and more public meeting space.

Bixby's plan concerned town clerk Barbara Swann's need for a sufficiently secure and dry storage facility for permanent town records. It was noted that currently some town records are kept in the homes of people serving on town boards and commissions. The state requires a secure vault for all of the town records. The elevator to the basement was questioned, but Bixby said that all spaces used for the public must be fully accessible. The elevator in the plan is the smallest possible, and still large enough to hold a stretcher.

In July the select board accepted the plan. There were several possibilities of various grants from state and federal sources that might help pay for much of the cost.

Jane Black

The art of the road. A look at the gabion construction on River Road. (1998)

River Road Rebuilt

It was reported in January that the rebuilding of River Road after the devastation of the July 1995 tornado was completed. Tryon Construction was responsible for most of the work, including placing the gabion boxes at the suggestion of Dean Amidon. (Gabion boxes are the wire cages that hold rock and are built as a wall structure on the uphill side. The recently rebuilt road from Tyringham to Lee has them as well.)

Transfer Station

Various improvements to the transfer station were discussed at the annual town meeting. Peter Vallianos, representing the solid waste committee, showed drawings of the design proposal. The intentions were to make depositing recyclables easier, safer, and cleaner. The town voted to exempt the money necessary for these improvements from the provisions of Proposition 2 1/2. There was no estimate of cost for this work in the article.

Fire Company

At the same town meeting, Del Martin modeled the fire company's turn-out gear to demonstrate to the town the need for new gear for the firefighters. The town must have been impressed by his turn on the catwalk, because they voted $21,858. (Note: The standard for the turn-out gear is a ten year lifetime, but it may be less depending on exposure to fires and training use. The fire company gear has been replaced twice since 1998.)

Monterey Meetinghouse

The MA Historical Commission granted the United Church of Christ a matching grant of $100,000 to be used solely towards the exterior repairs and renovations the church needs. The church required repairs to the exterior of the building, including the foundation, drainage, rotted areas, the front entrance and stairs, and needed to construct a handicapped access ramp at the rear of the building. The belfry was so rotten that it was deemed too risky to even try to ring the bell.

As the $100,000 grant could only be used for exterior work, Kathy Page Wasiuk said that additional fundraising would be necessary for the interior work, and to establish an endowment for maintenance. All of this work would improve the chances of the church being placed on the National Historic Register.

ॐ

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Road Safety

Having had two fatalities in two accidents near the intersection of Route 23 and Route 57, the select board wanted to make improvements. Don Amstead, highway foreman, was given the go-ahead to place some rumble strips on the westbound lane of Route 57 approaching the intersection. It was discovered that knowledgeable drivers were swerving into the other lane to avoid the strips, but not slowing down. So it was agreed that rumble strips would be installed across both lanes. In August the state informed the town that they could not provide engineering for redesigning the intersection but that the town could use state engineers for consultation. The state also gave the town permission to install a blinking light and to widen the sight lines at the intersection.

Police Department

Gareth Backhaus began policing in Monterey ten years prior, and had been part-time chief since 1993. In May, Chief Backhaus completed a twenty-two week training at the MA Criminal Justice Training Center at the regional police academy in Agawam, MA. His principal interest is in community policing. The cost and need for full-time police protection is still being contested by some in town, but Peter Brown, select board chair, defended the decision to have a full-time chief. Regular coverage from state police was spotty, and response to situations was sometimes measured in hours.

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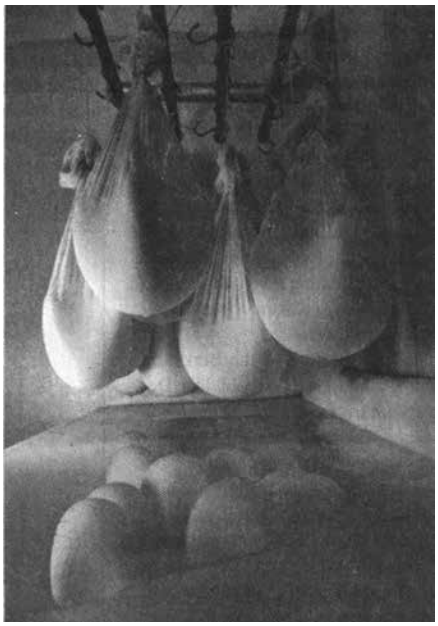

Wayne Dunlop

Just hanging out. Cheese at Rawson Brook Farm. (1998)

Politics

The town experimented with a move to hold a town-wide caucus for candidates for town offices, versus the two-party system. The town-wide caucus would allow any candidates to stand for an office, with the top two vote-getters being the finalists in town elections. The two-party caucuses had traditionally searched for and nominated candidates, with some candidates being nominated by both parties. That was the case this year with both incumbent select board member Peter Brown, and finance committee candidate George Emmons, being the choice of both parties.

As of 1998, sixty towns in Massachusetts held non-partisan caucuses, and only twenty-three have continued with two-party caucuses.

Maggie Leonard

The Out of Bounds team bested the Blue Hill Rangers in the 1998 Monterey Cup.

Other News Around Town

The annual Memorial Day service was held for the first time at the new Monterey Veterans Memorial Park at the intersection of Blue Hill Road and Route 23. Even though the service was held there, the park was not completed, and Dean Amidon published several appeals during the year for contributions to finish off the monuments.

There continued to be activities and meetings around finding a suitable use for the Wilson-McLaughlin house and property that Edith Wilson had left to the town. The Wilson bequest required the preservation of the house to be used to the benefit of the community, but finding the best use, whether for a town hall, school, community center, or something else, was proving elusive.

In February, the state came to a ceremony to honor local land preservationists, including the Monterey Preservation Land Trust and Berkshire Natural Resources Council. The land trust, which dropped "Preservation" from its name to allow for shorter signage, was busy with improvements to the Mount Hunger Road property, and was working towards the conservation of some other properties in town.

Also in February, the community potluck supper was revived for the first time in over two years. Peter Murkett, author of *Monterey, A Local History*, and former *Monterey News* editor, was the speaker.

The twenty-first annual steak roast was held in July, with ticket prices of $18.

"Rock Ridge," one of the more elegant older homes in Monterey (up the driveway between the cobblestone pillars on Tyringham Road), celebrated its one-hundredth year since construction. A lengthy article in the July issue, by Ginny Duffy, then the owner, detailed the long history of the house, and the many changes it went through. Initially an eight-acre site, an early owner had enlarged the holding to nearly two hundred acres and had begun a variety of farming activities. Gradually, it went through its ups and downs, and the holding was eventually reduced back to roughly the original size.

People Serving the Town

Town Officials:

- Select board—Peter Brown
- Select board—Fred Chapman
- Select board—Muriel Lazzarini
- Southern Berkshire Regional School District representative—Jed Lipsky
- Town Clerk—Barbara Swann
- Town Moderator—Mark Makuc
- Fire Chief—Ray Tryon
- Highway Foreman—Don Amstead
- Police Chief—Gareth Backhaus
- Monterey Church Pastor—Keith Snow
- State Representative—Christopher Hodgkins
- State Senator—Andrea Nuciforo, Jr.

At the Monterey News

- Maggie Leonard—editor
- Mari Makuc—treasurer
- Barbara Tryon—business manager
- Ian Jenkins and Pat Amstead—production

Regular Essayists

- Fran Amidon—daffodil campaign
- Jane Black —town reporter
- Anita Carroll-Weldon— Bidwell House
- George Emmons—natural world reflections
- Ann Higgins—personal notes
- Representative Christopher Hodgkins—"Rep Rap"
- Maggie Leonard—planning board news
- Del Martin—"Fireman's Blotter"
- Bonner McAllester—natural history and wildlife report
- David McAllester—wildlife report
- Deborah Mielke—school news
- Peter Murkett– "Voxed"
- Senator Andrea Nuciforo, Jr. —"Senator Says"
- Joyce Sheffey—Monterey Preservation Land Trust, solid waste committee
- Pastor Keith Snow—Monterey church news
- Mary Wallace—Monterey Grange

Many other folks in town contributed as reporters and letter writers.

Poetry

- Nancy Adams
- Nathan Brown
- Laura Gaccione
- Lesley Givet
- Nick Hardcastle
- A. O. Howell
- John B. Humphrey
- Mary Kate Jordan
- Eleanor Kimberly
- Beryl McAllester
- Marshall Messer
- Claire Mielke
- Lee Price
- Rebecca Saletan
- Bruce Snow
- Simon Spagnoletti
- Richard Zubrowski

Artwork

- Fran Amidon
- Joe Baker
- Sudi Baker
- Christopher Carnese
- Scott Duhon
- George Emmons
- Mary Kate Jordan
- Joan Kieban
- Bonner McAllester
- Katie Olds

Obituaries

- Walter Andersen, 86 (May, p.18)
- Mrs. Frances Brett, 97 (Jan., p.16)
- Robert C. Emmel, 77 (Nov., p.18)
- Robert H. Ensign, 84 (Nov., p.18)
- Lucie Lancome, 90 (Feb., p.16)
- Donald R. Sabin, 94 (June, p.16)
- Marion Schneider, 98 (Feb., p.16)
- Edna Howley Stoiber, 88 (Aug., p.9)
- Thomas Vickerman, 41 (March, p.21)
- Arthur Kyle Wing, Jr., 89 (May, p.18)
- Bob & Eileen Schlichter (Dec., p. 16)

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- Jay Amidon (below left)
- Christopher Blair (p.18)
- William Brockman Real Estate (p. 2)
- Corashire Real Estate (p. 32)
- Charles Ferris (p. 18)
- Nancy Kalodner (p. 19)
- Rick Mielke (p. 32)
- Monterey United Church of Christ (p. 20)
- Munson Satellites (p. 21)
- Lauren Paul (p. 23)
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- Jerrold Raab (p. 2)
- Peter Vallianos (p. 20)

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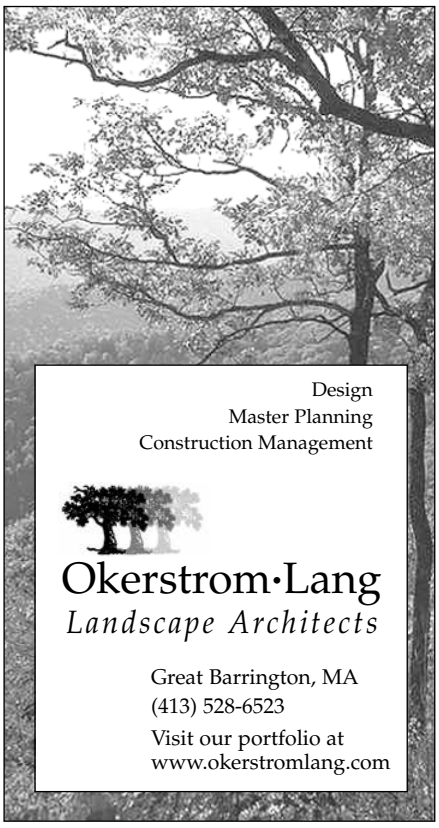
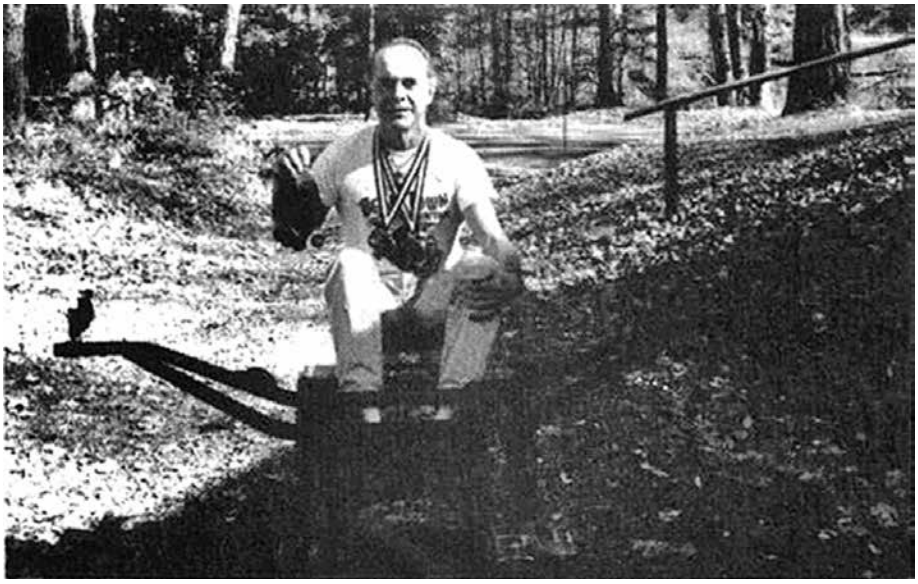


Looking Back Twenty Years–"Monterey News" from 1998



John Humphrey

A very fit Lanoue, perched atop his rowing machine, holds some of his hard-won hardware from the past rowing season.

Glory Days.

In October, Lanny Lanoue placed first in the Alden Open Shell division at the annual Head of the Charles regatta on the Charles River. Lanny had been training for a dozen years on Lake Garfield, and sometimes on Lake Buel. He had a very successful racing season on the Stockbridge Bowl, and earned three second-place finishes in the Alden Open Shell Nationals, held on Lake Winnepesaukee in New Hampshire, in the 1200-meter sprint, 1200-meter doubles, and the four-mile endurance races.

Lost in Time (Capsule)

Last year's *Looking Back Twenty Years* segment highlighted the sesquicentennial celebration—Monterey's 150th anniversary. There was news about a "time capsule" that was created and filled with objects, but there seems to be little known about it now.

If any readers remember specific details about the time capsule, where it might be, what might be in it, please contact the *Monterey News*, and we'll let others know to see if it can jog some memories. What we know, from Peter Murkett, is the box probably had six sides. What might be true, from Eoin Higgins, is that it is buried somewhere in Greene Park. But then it might be interred up on the parade grounds of the second center, or packed up in a box deep in the library, waiting to be found during the rebuilding project.

And it might be a mystery clear until the bicentennial celebration.

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Council on Aging
Schedule Changes

Cards and games have been changed from 12:30 p.m. to 1 p.m., still on Tuesdays.

The Matter of Balance classes have finished. However, for those who attended a series of the Matter of Balance classes, Balance Review will continue from 1:30 to 2:30 every Wednesday afternoon.

Both of these activities are held at the community center.

—Kay Purcell
Council on Aging

Geometry

There is a center to the soul
Some point that's pinned to spirit
From which we depend, effulging
Into all dimensions.
You will not find this
Grave geometry of being
In any dictionary of doubts,
But I have found from my own heart
There's no perimeter to wonder—
The radius of hope
Sweeps but larger arcs of love.

—A.O. Howell
February 1998

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Roadwork

It doesn't take a blizzard to make a Monterey winter. Last November I was caught with firewood lying beyond the reach of my truck in a snow-covered field. I initiated Plan B, and after steady rain interrupted progress for a full day, found myself lying out on Point Road in the pitch dark of early evening with a flashlight, adjusting the hitch on a rented log-splitter. The temperature had dropped into the teens. Tall pines rocked back and forth overhead and the wind roared. One small problem followed another until I decided that instead of pitching a fit I would come back in the morning refreshed by sleep. The gusty wind woke me several times overnight, and continued unabated in the morning, when it was colder and still dark. But things went well—until I tried to drive back home from the lake.

Point and Sylvan Roads are both privately owned and maintained, and the hard left turn from Point onto Sylvan leads into a slight rise, which was smoothly covered with black ice. My new snow tires whined as I came to a stop halfway up. I had no sand with me. Backing downhill on ice with the splitter in tow was problematic—in and out of the truck a dozen times—always with that mincing, graceless ice-walk step so characteristic of winter—tugging the splitter back into line behind the truck. Soon enough I was once again on my back under the truck, this time in the dark before dawn, in the middle of a slight hill on ice near a blind corner, the wind meanwhile blasting at the trees waving overhead. I was rattled.

Don Amstead got me out that morning. Don caretakes several houses in addition to his day-job as Monterey Highway Superintendent, and he was wheeling sand from a pile on Point Road down to the shoreline to plump up a private beach off-season. He loaned me his shovel while he moved another wheelbarrow-load, and I spread a little sand from the back of my truck onto the icy slope. He suggested starting my run in second gear to help keep my wheels from spinning. I drove out with ease.

A little cold, some wind, more darkness than light in a day, mixed precipitation-this is the real stuff of winter. We all have to deal with it one way or another, but Don and his crew (Rich Crittendon, Peter LePrevost, and Lyman Thomson) are the front line. They drive hundreds of miles in snow, sleet, and freezing rain over Monterey's fifty miles of dirt and paved road every time there's a storm. Don and Richie take the watch on alternate weeks. If there's a storm in the forecast, the watch alerts the others when it's time to plow, or lay down sand and salt.

I drove down to the town shed late one night toward the end of December, through five inches of perfect snowball material, to go along plowing. They had sanded the blacktop roads in the evening, then gone home. At temperatures of twenty degrees or more, salt melts the snow and ice, and that layer on the pavement facilitates effective plowing. By eleven o'clock wet snow was stuck to wire fences, trees were bent, and the wind was up, plastering the tree trunks white on one side.

Don Amstead has supervised the Monterey road crew since April of 1989. He is an experienced engineer who has done design and survey work on local roads in addition to the usual management duties. But when it comes to opening roads in winter, he's driving plow trucks right along with the rest of the crew. I listened to the radio traffic while I waited in the garage. Don' s wife Pat keeps in touch with the trucks over the two-way radio from their home. The contact brings a measure of indoor warmth to the dark, solitary job of plowing late at night. Not that it was cold inside the Ford 350. Don had the heater going full blast to keep all the windows clear. When snow fills the air and covers the roads, you need maximum visibility. (Rich Crittendon, on the other hand, runs the defroster hard when he's out driving the Mack, but opens his window to keep cool. Winter is when you sweat until you freeze.)

The Ford 350 is the town's newest four-wheel-drive truck, and it has a powerful International Navistar diesel engine. Don churned up the hill on Fairview Road toward Beartown at about 25 m.p.h., throwing a plume of snow over our shoulder. He hears complaints about the damage plowing does to mailboxes, but throwing snow at knee-level could be as bad or worse, and slowing down would certainly add hours to the job, raising the cost of a budget item that's already large. As Don knows better than anyone, maintaining public roads is a classic some-of-the-people-all-of-the-time undertaking. Fairview Road is now cleared from end to end. The midsection used to remain closed, but individuals with plows would punch through on their own, then someone else would inevitably follow, and get stuck.

We made our way along the back roads, and took Hupi past the lake and through to Route 23 near the Otis line. The snow changed to freezing rain and back to snow again at the higher elevations. Some kids on Hupi Road were evidently having a party, and cars were parked along both sides. Someone wandered out to apologize, but we got through okay. Don was glad last-minute good intentions did not leave a car stuck sideways across the road.

Don's son Keith was plowing that night to fill in for Peter LePrevost, who was sick (although he came to work the next day). Keith was in touch over the radio, working down on Sandisfield and New Marlborough Roads. Amstead father and son kept at it until two or three in the morning, when I was starting to nod off.

Snow continued falling next day, and soon temperatures sank below zero. By New Year's Eve icicles hung from eaves everywhere, the snow banks were above eye-level, and Main Road showed the broad tan and white stripes of cold-weather traffic. It was our classic winter moment this season. Within a week it turned warm, and the town crew worked to keep storm drains open and check the creeping ice that results from cycles of freeze and thaw. Two and three-tenths inches of rain fell here the second week of January.

What is seasonal weather nowadays? This winter has been so warm skaters can't keep ice on the rink. The Tuesday night men's hockey league has vanished in the gloom with not one game played. According to Pittsfield meteorologist

Monterey–Looking Back Twenty Years–"Monterey News" from 1998

George Bulgarelli, January of 1998 contained three sunny days. Snowfall has been near normal. Who could predict, for all our sophisticated information systems? But for a few puffs of wind somewhere high up and hundreds of miles off, we might have been part of the ice storm that devastated eastern Canada and northern New England while it rained here. Or all that ice might have been snow. Several times this winter significant snowfall has been forecast for the higher elevations of southern Berkshire County, and we have ended up with mixed precipitation and a few inches of white slush on the ground. Snow turns to rain and back to snow. The town crew takes what comes.

Each member of the crew has a truck he usually drives. Peter LePrevost routinely runs the Oshkosh, the largest of the town's four-wheel drive trucks, an angular rig with a tall, narrow profile in front. Peter is also the unofficial mechanic on the town crew. One day in mid-January he was under the hood of the Ford 350, because the coolant wasn't getting up to operating temperature. After draining the system he removed the thermostat. "International engine in a Ford truck with a thermostat made in Germany," he said, shaking his head as he went off to begin the search for parts over the phone.

Rich Crittendon usually drives the Mack, the only two-wheel-drive dump truck used for plowing and sanding. Often the roads get so icy that the Mack can't climb a hill moving forward, ahead of the sand being spread from the rear of the truck; then Rich uses the mirrors to negotiate hills in reverse. Holding a big truck to the crown of the road in slippery conditions is vital. Once up on Blue Hill Road, Monterey Police Chief Gareth Backhaus was approaching Rich, who was driving the Mack. As they slowed and moved slightly aside to pass each other, Gareth stopped and rolled down his window to speak with Rich, who stopped in turn, realizing a nanosecond too late that there, off the crown and without forward momentum, the off-center weight of the tapered plow would slide the truck into the ditch. Which, in slow motion, it sure enough did.

On the same day that Peter was servicing the Ford, Rich was remounting the license plate higher up on the Mack, out of the way of backup lights he had installed down low to help him see the road better when he spreads sand driving backwards. Rich spliced wires into the new license plate light and sealed them with rubber silicone to keep out as much salt as possible. The dump body and sander on the Mack are made of stainless steel to withstand the ravages of constant contact with water and salt. The steel catwalks around the dump body are not stainless, and have to be sandblasted and painted frequently to survive at all.

Lyman Thomson drives the GMC, a one-ton four-wheel-drive dump truck, clearing many of the smaller roads, both paved and dirt. Lyman also operates the grader, on the front of which a twelve--foot plow can be mounted for pushing deep snow. The under-slung grader blade is used to cut back tall snow banks after a big storm.

I rode with Lyman one morning in the GMC while he plowed Gould, Curtis, Blue Hill, Corashire, Brett, River, Swann, and Fairview Roads, then returned to touch up Gould Road. In about the time it would take to drive to New York in good weather, we had covered a few miles of local roads several times over. As Lyman cleared the intersection of Blue Hill and Main Roads that morning (lower the plow, forward a few feet, lift the plow, back up, lower, forward, lift, reverse, over and over again), Jack Ryder walked over from his house on the corner to raise the flag at the Monterey Veterans' Memorial. Along for the ride, I took away a mental snapshot of local routine I hadn't seen before. Lyman often carries a camera when he plows, on the lookout especially for views of fresh snow at daybreak. He regards Monterey as one of the world's beautiful places, and photography helps remind him to see while he works in the small corners of town.

—Peter Murkett, March 1998

Leslee Carsewell
Intersections
January 19 - March 3
Reception: Saturday, Jan. 20, 6-7:30pm

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Monterey Library

Knox Gallery supported by Friends of the Monterey Library

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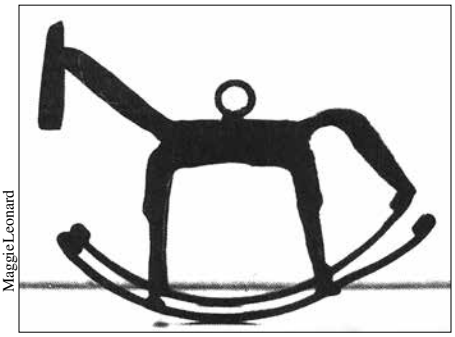
The "Monterey News" Then and Now

This is my fourth *Looking Back Twenty Years* segment, so I thought I'd reflect on how the paper has changed in that time. Since change is ongoing, always, I'm sure the paper will be different twenty years hence.

One big difference has been the balance of content. During the mid-to-late 90s, many people in town were busy writing and submitting poetry, often with two pages per issue. The topics varied greatly, as did the styles. Fewer people contribute poetry now, though we have a few published poets in our realm who have been happy to give permission to publish their work. There were fewer essays then in contrast to now. Bonner McAllester began her monthly essays on the natural world in 1983, so she's coming into her thirty-fifth year of twelve essays a year. Others contributed essays, but much less consistently. In addition to the current five regular essayists (not all every month), we receive sporadic essays from readers as they are inspired. Some recent issues of the *Monterey News* feel a bit like a literary journal.

Currently, we still lack a town reporter, so the paper suffers, and the readers suffer, without reliable, independent reporting on town affairs and governance. (If you're interested in reporting, please contact me.) However, individual select board members are taking turns writing essays (*In My View*) and many town organizations contribute detailed monthly reports on meetings and activities, which was much less the case twenty years ago.

In addition to Bonner's essays, we still have a wildlife column, reported then by David McAllester. Folks still send in, or drop off, photos of plants and animals and landscape scenes, though fewer of townfolks going about their lives. Ann Higgins was writing a *Personal Notes* column with births, and birthdays, and personal achievements. Both state representative Chris Hodgkins and state senator Andrea Nuciforo reported on political activities in the state.



A rocking horse waits patiently on a wintery windowsill. (January 1998)

Physically the paper has gone through quite a few changes, from the early days of six or eight mimeographed sheets stapled together, to physically cut-and-pasted composition on stapled issues on newsprint, to using desktop publishing, now printed on a high-speed digital printer on higher-quality white twenty-pound paper.

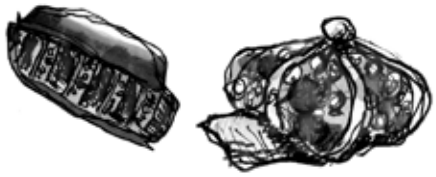
One thing that hasn't changed has been the generosity of the readers to support this paper through free contributions. We mail out 550 to 600 copies each month with no subscription fee. An additional 300 to 400 copies are distributed at no charge. Approximately 200 electronic versions are emailed (with some color photographs), with our fingers crossed that the recipients will continue to support the paper. Our readers' financial support, along with some advertising income, seems to just balance our expenses. It is an amazing testimony to a community's dedication to "encouraging community conversations."

—Stephen Moore, Editor

Susan McAllester Memorial Photo Contest–First Place

Barred Owl, by Storrs Olds

According to Storrs, the owl was "hanging around the house for a few days, and then was gone." —July 1998



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Bidwell House Museum
Keeping Busy Off-Season

Exterior Improvements

The Bidwell House Museum may be closed for the season but the house has been buzzing with activity this fall. In October, work on the next phase of the museum's multi-year restoration project began with Roger Tryon, of Tryon Stoneworks, and his crew digging a very large trench in front of the house. This was a necessary step in order to bury the power and phone lines before re-grading the lawn and creating a new accessible entrance to the museum. Once the trench was backfilled, Roger began work on a new stone wall that will border the new pathway up to the porch. Work will continue throughout the winter, with the improved and accessible entrance ready for the opening of the 2018 season.

Thanksgiving Party

In November, the museum hosted its annual fall fundraising party, "Our Colonial Holiday of Thanksgiving," and it was held at the Bidwell House Museum for the first time since 2014. Lanterns lit the way up to the festively decorated rooms and everyone was relieved that the rain held off during the arrival hour. Friends from near and far enjoyed delicious hors d'oeuvres by Marketplace Kitchen and music by the wonderful Michael Mosca. The museum is so grateful for the generous donations to the operating fund and youth programs that were received that evening. The party would not have been a success without the brilliant party committee and numerous volunteers, co-chairs Kathryn Roberts and Linnea Grealish, Diane Austin, Maggie Barkin, JoAnn Bell, Lindsey Codwise, Walter and Mary Jo Engels, Charlie and Joy Flint, Ruth Green, Rob and Cindy Hoogs, Bev Hyman and Larry Birnbach, Nancy Jones, Elaine Lynch, Mia Plehn and Kate Ryan, along with interns Jacob Makuc and Marya Makuc.

Annual Appeal

In December the museum's annual appeal mailing went out to all of the museum's members and donors. If you didn't receive a letter but you are interested in making a donation, please call the museum or head to the museum's website, bidwellhousemuseum.org. Every dollar donated supports the preservation of the historic 1760s homestead, 192-acre grounds, and history education programs. And don't forget the grounds are open all year! Now that the snow has arrived, you can go cross-country skiing or snow-shoeing on the trails.

Happy New Year from the Bidwell House Museum!

—Heather Kowalski, Executive Director

Top: A large trench for utilities in front of the Bidwell House Museum.
Above: Kathryn Roberts honors former Director Barbara Palmer at the Thanksgiving party.
Right: Roger Tryon starting work on the stone wall that will border a new access ramp to the museum entrance.
Photos by Heather Kowalski.

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Wildlife Report

Mid-November to Late December

In November, Elaine and Dennis Lynch saw a fine moose in their driveway, with big antlers. They live by Heron Pond, off Tyringham Road. Also late in November, Steve Moore was standing looking at the old dam behind the Post Office when a black mink came running by close to him and went along near the water by the end of the dam, then out of sight.

Maureen Banner reports on the breached beaver dam on Fairview Road. Her photograph at the right shows the water level well-dropped and the beaver active in the water, but this was before everything froze up. Now this beaver will have to cope with no pond for protection, and no underwater and under-ice access to its house and food supply.

Also in November, Stuart and Laura Litwin had a handsome bobcat at their place on Wellman Road. They know this thanks to their wildlife camera. Later in the month, Bob Rausch and Barbara Swann saw a bobcat in the same area, but on New Marlborough Road. They also saw a ring-necked pheasant, and more recently, they report an ermine, which is a weasel in white winter pelage, which they saw at Gould Farm.

Back in October, Bonsai Cox sent in a photograph of a mysterious dead fish, dropped from the sky near where she lives at Stevens Pond. I have heard some good ideas as to how it got way up on dry land, dead, but really this is still a mystery.

Early in December, the Edelmans on Hupi Road saw two "beautiful bushy red foxes" at their place. The foxes stood out handsomely against the snow and crossed from the side yard over to Hupi Woods Circle. A few days later, Carol saw a coyote in the back yard. "It was big and beautiful, but limping, with an injured back right leg, held up as it walked."

Susan Sellew sent a photograph of a lovely big spider, head-down on the outside of her back door in mid-December. The pattern on the abdomen is wonderful. This is one of the group known as "orb weavers."

I have photographs from Maureen Banner of birds at their suet feeder, including one of a female downy woodpecker, another of a female red-bellied woodpecker, and one of two titmice at the same time.

Roz Halberstadter has seen a pileated woodpecker at her place near Lake Buel. Joe Baker tells of Canada geese flying over the house south, in two Vs totalling about twenty-five geese. About this same time, Steve Snyder saw snow buntings on the fields by the gravel pit, near Gould Farm.

Finally, there is a bear report, after no sign of them for a couple of months. This comes very recently from New Marlborough Road, where the Moore-Jensen bird feeder went down, right about solstice time, to a bear who was up and active in December. Seeds were eaten, a feeder carried away and dropped, but "not overly damaged."

Thank you folks.

—Bonner McAllester
528-9385 or bonnermca@gmail.com.

Maureen Banner

Above: A red-bellied woodpecker at a suet feeder.
Below: An orb weaver spider.

Maureen Banner

Susan Sellew

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Police Report
Mid-November to Late December

On the Roads

The police department handled quite a few situations involving automobiles during this period. There were several calls with people who were stuck due to weather conditions, especially from the ice storm just a few days prior to Christmas.

One person stopped at the town hall, and used the emergency phone outside the building to get help. An officer was in the office, and directed the driver to park at the town hall, and then provided a courtesy ride home. A ride home was also provided to a driver stuck on Beartown Mountain Road after a call for help was received. Another call for help on Mt. Hunger Road is the subject of a letter of appreciation on page 8.

In another situation, a vehicle was stuck in the drainage ditch on Fairview Road the evening after the ice storm. It is easy to imagine what happened with the icy conditions on the gravel road, and Fairview has very steep run-off ditches. A wrecker was called and the operator was permitted to sit in the cruiser to keep warm. Even with the highway department sanding the road repeatedly, the wrecker couldn't get close enough to reach the vehicle. After nearly two hours the officer was able to free the vehicle and safely park it on the side of the road, and gave the driver a ride home.

An elderly woman from Otis, who was driving erratically on Sandisfield, had taken a wrong turn. The officer assisted in getting the woman home.

There were two traffic stops during the ice storm before Christmas due to excessive speed, especially under those conditions. One, on Main Road, was for a driver going nearly fifty in a thirty-five mph zone, and the other was a driver traveling sixty mph in a forty mph zone during heavy sleet. People taking these risks are likely not thinking that they are also endangering other drivers and property as well.

Other stops included a dead battery and the officer was able to jump-start the car. There was a call for a seemingly abandoned car which was gone the following day; a situation with small trees down on Tyringham Road that an officer was able to remove by hand; a tree on Blue Hill Road that was leaning on wires and Verizon was called; a citation for an expired inspection; and an unfortunate collision with a deer, which had to be put down due to its injuries.

Keeping the Peace

Early in the month there was an on-going disturbance on Pine Street which involved a charge of trespassing, and the person charged with trespassing needing to return to the home with an escorting officer to remove his belongings. The officer helped the parties work out a compromise between them.

An officer also responded to a domestic disturbance on Main Road and was able to help restore peace without incident.

Keeping Us Safe

In late November an officer stopped a driver who he knew had a suspended drivers license. The driver was charged with driving after suspension as well as possession/carrying a dangerous weapon.

In mid-December an officer took a report regarding credit card fraud. A cellphone had been ordered by an unknown person in New Jersey under the complainant's name. The order was cancelled and AT&T refunded the charge. The police department in New Jersey was also notified.

On December 15 the department received a county-wide BOLO (Be On the Look Out) call from Cheshire for an older-model green Jeep Cherokee with two passengers. The twenty-year old man was involved in an armed robbery and may have still been armed. The vehicle was not sighted in Monterey.

Alarms

In two instances both the Monterey police and the fire company responded to carbon monoxide alarms. One was a false alarm, and in the other situation, it was guessed that the alarm had been set off by the resident warming their car in their garage before they left.

Two fire alarms were responded to. In one situation it was determined that back drafting from a wood stove was the cause. A second call, on Gould Road, was found to be false.

There were three security alarms, one on Main Road, and the others on Beartown Mountain Road, involving buildings under construction. In the first, the contractor had entered the wrong alarm code. The two on Beartown Mountain Road were checked and found to be secure.

Health Assistance

Police responded to three calls for people who had falls or felt weak. If necessary, the people were transported to Fairview Hospital. One person requested assistance with the application for a handicap placard.

Dogs

Simply stated, there were several calls of dogs wandering or missing in very disparate areas of town. In only one case was an officer able to assist with getting the dogs home. It's a good bet the other dogs assisted themselves for their homegoing.

Call 528-3211 to reach the police department for non-emergencies.

December Contributions

Our continued thanks to these thoughtful folks who keep the paper running!

Edward and Carolyn O'Malley
Michael and Laura Arnow
Nancy Fliesler and Henry Schwan
Glenn Heller
Carol and Jim Edelman
Natalie Manzino

Thai Yoga Bodywork

Local References *Sliding Scale*

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Select Board Corner

Welcome to the Select Board Corner. Our goal is to submit an article each month to the *Monterey News* to keep everyone up to date on important issues, office closings, highway projects, etc. This article may be especially important for those who cannot access our website. This is a work in progress, and we welcome any comments or suggestions on the articles.

MontereyMA.gov

Our town website is a great way to access information about the town.

Meetings and Events

Board of Health: Please check the website calendar for the month of January, or call the administrative assistant at 528-1443 x111.

Chair Yoga: Tuesdays, 9 to 10 a.m., at the community center.

Conservation Commission: Wednesday, January 10, at 6 p.m.

Council on Aging: Mondays, January 8 and 22, at 10 a.m.

Visiting Nurse: Berkshire VNA will be here on Thursday, January 11, from 2 to 3 p.m. No appointment necessary.

Foot Nurse: Thursday, January 11, 9 to 11:30 a.m., by appointment (please call 528-1443 x247). All ages are welcome.

Parks Commission: Wednesday, February 7, at 6 p.m.

Planning Board: Thursdays, January 11 and 25, at 7 p.m.

Select Board: Wednesdays, January 3, 10, 17, and 24 at 9 a.m., and January 31, at 4 p.m. Please call 528-1443 x111 to be placed on the agenda.

Town Hall Closings

Most individual office closings are posted on the town calendar and on the department's voicemail message. We recommend always calling ahead.

Town hall will be closed for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Monday, January 15.

Other News

Happy 2018! We hope this year brings everyone good health, wealth and happiness.

Serving the Town

This month we would like to extend our sincere thanks to all of you who volunteer your time on the town's many boards and commissions, both elected and appointed, compensated and uncompensated. Volunteerism is neither a new concept nor an uncommon activity, but we are finding it increasingly more difficult to fill open positions as members retire and move on. Those who volunteer and/or serve in elected positions provide valuable experience and knowledge, as well as economic cost savings to Monterey. It is also an effective way to increase public participation into town operations and the decision-making processes.

We ask that while compiling your new year's resolutions this year you consider adding one to become more involved in the community. There are appointed boards and commissions that could use an extra person or two. Before you know it the May town elections will be here and there will be several positions open. Find more information about openings in future articles in the *Monterey News*.

We look forward to serving the Town of Monterey with you in the future.

Festivities at the Firehouse

Wednesday, December 13, the select board hosted a cheerful holiday luncheon for town employees, boards, and committee members at the Monterey Fire House. Melissa had prepared a tasty array of sandwich fixings, salads, snacks, cookies, and her delicious homemade pasta salad. She was assisted by Shawn Tryon, who arranged the space into a cozy dining room, and Terry Walker who brought her luscious cheesecakes. Terry also brought her charming grandson, and Matt Bodnar carried his sweet, friendly baby daughter. Fun to have some little ones in the crowd, in addition to numerous hard working town employees, committee members, and volunteers taking a break to enjoy each other's company. Thanks to Melissa, Terry, Shawn and everyone who contributed to this get-together.

— Steve Weisz, Chair
Carol Edelman and Kenn Basler
Monterey Select Board
(steve@montereyma.gov)
(carol@montereyma.gov)
(kenn@montereyma.gov)

For general inquiries, please click "Contact Us" at www.montereyma.gov.

Western Massachusetts Recycling Reminder

Thank you for your recycling efforts over the past year. The following are some guidelines for recycling during the holiday and winter months.

Please DO include the following items in your paper recycling mix:

- corrugated cardboard boxes
- paperboard gift boxes
- greeting cards (except those with foil, metallic inks, or glitter)
- gift wrap, gift bags, tissue wrap (except those with foil, metallic inks, or glitter)
- paper shopping bags (any type of handle is okay)
- catalogs and calendars

Please DO NOT include the following items in your recycling mix:

- ribbons, bows, and tinsel
- packing peanuts and Styrofoam™ (reusable, contact your local pack-and-ship store)
- holiday lights
- blister packaging (formed plastic packaging used to hold toys, smaller items, and electronics, etc)
- plastic bags (they jam sorting machines)
- photographs

If you have any questions about recycling, please visit our website at springfieldmrf.org

— Springfield Materials Recycling Facility

Calendar

Every Tuesday: Cards and games, 1 p.m. (new time), community center.

Every Wednesday: Balance Review classes, 1:30 to 2:30 p.m., community center. See page 23.

Every Thursday: Dancersize, from 4 to 5 p.m., community center. See page 13.

Through Saturday, January 13: Community art exhibit, *Eclipsed*, at the Knox Gallery.

Thursday, January 4: Town Yarners, 1 to 3 p.m., community center. See page 13.

Monday, January 8: Lake Garfield Working Group, monthly meeting, at 7 p.m., town hall. See page 4 to 5.

Wednesday, January 17: Community Potluck with Charles Flint, Antiques business, at 6 p.m., Monterey Meeting House. See page 2.

Friday, January 19: *Intersections*, work by Leslie Carsewell, opens at the Knox Gallery. See page 5.

Saturday, January 20: Knox Gallery reception for Leslie Carsewell, *Intersections*, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. See page 5.

Lenox Contra Dance: Music by Coincidance, with Eric Martin and friends, calling by Jon Greene. All dances taught. 8:30 to 11:30 p.m., beginners session at 8. Lenox Community Center, 65 Walker St. LenoxContraDance.org, or call 528-4007 for information.

To subscribe to a printable monthly calendar via email, write to montereynews9@gmail.com, and put "calendar email" in the subject line or text area. Print it (one page) and forward it.

Later On

Thursday, February 8: Town Yarners, 1 to 3 p.m., community center.

Wednesday, February 21: Community potluck supper.

Hockey Rink Schedule:

Free Skating: Figure skaters, families, and recreational skaters.

Sundays through Fridays, noon to 7 p.m.

Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Adult hockey:

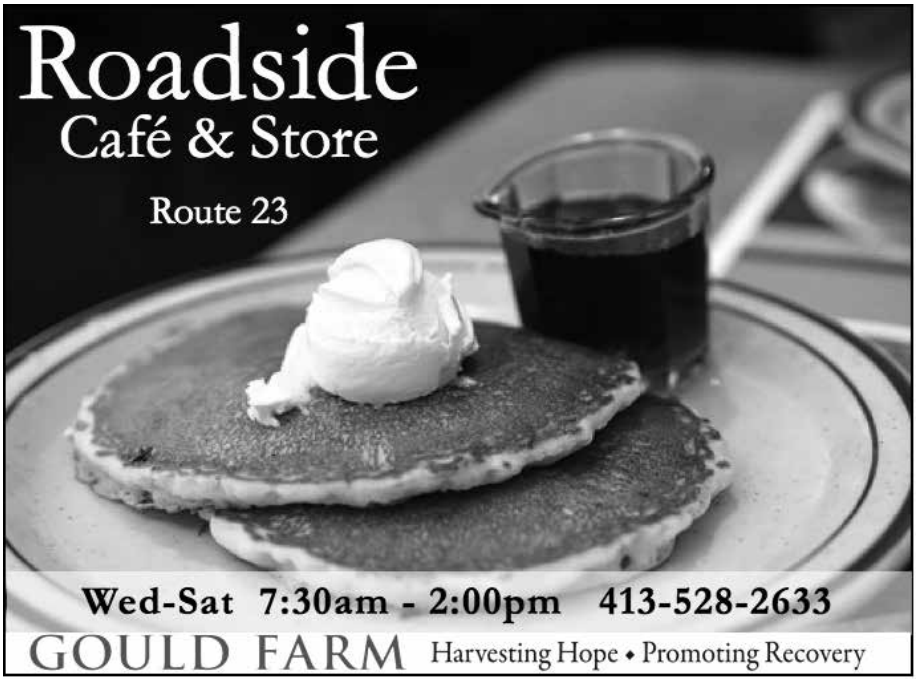
Sundays through Fridays, 9 a.m. to noon, and 7 to 9 p.m.

Sunday mornings from 9:30 to 11:30.

Skate responsibly!
Please shovel before you leave.

For updates—call Parks Dept. at 528-1443 x248 (voicemail), or

Facebook—Monterey MA Outdoor-Skating Rink



Monterey News

The *Monterey News* is an independent nonprofit corporation dedicated to fostering communication in the Monterey community. Our editorial address is PO Box 9, Monterey, MA, 01245. We invite signed letters, articles, drawings, poetry, and photographs. Submissions may also be sent to the email address below. Address requests for advertising rates and further information to the Editor, or telephone us at 413-528-4007 or email montereynews9@gmail.com.

Town Contact Information

Emergency! 911

Administrative Assistant:
528-1443 x111
admin@montereyma.gov
(for town boards and misc. questions)

Assessor: 528-1443 x115
assessors@montereyma.gov

Building Department: 528-1443 x118 buildingsafety@montereyma.gov

Community Center: 528-3600
center@ccmonterey.org

Fire Department (non-emergency): 528-3136
chief@montereyma.org

Highway Department: 528-1734
dpw1@montereyma.gov

Library: 528-3795
montereylibrary@gmail.com

Police Department (non-emergency): 528-3211, Alt./Emergency 528-3211
mpdchief@montereyma.gov

Post Office: 528-4670

Tax Collector: 528-1443 x117
montereytax@yahoo.com
(for questions about your tax bill)

Town Clerk: 528-1443 x113
clerk@montereyma.gov

Town website: Montereyma.gov, under each department, for office hours.

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Also use our link to view other offerings in MLS.

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Editor.....Stephen Moore
Copy Editor..... Kateri Kosek
Mailing Labels ..... Joe Baker
Treasurer ..... Steve Pullen

Contributions from local artists this month:
Pat Arnow, p. 17; Maureen Banner, pgs. 19 and 22;
George Emmons, p. 16; Bonner McAllester, p. 12.

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